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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

FEW, we think, will doubt that the Session which has just been opened, is likely to be of more political interest than any we have witnessed for many years. Abroad, everything points to war; and at home, everything encourages faction; the two greatest inspirers of political excitement. It has always been our aim to discourage that gratuitous disturbance of the general tranquillity, which is so dear to ignorance and passion; but the opposite error of affecting to pooh-pooh serious symptoms is equally to be deprecated, and it is our duty to look the existing state of things fairly in the face.

That the fear of war is *real* and not factitious is as evident as possible. The money-markets of Europe may be disturbed once in a way by mere jobbers, but continued disturbance can spring only from actual and practical causes affecting the general current of trade. These are plain. The French Government sends forth no honest denial of warlike intentions,—though equivocating now and then in that line, that war may not come as a surprise altogether. It goes on, too, making downright preparations, which nothing but a prospect of hostilities can explain; collecting transports on the Mediterranean sea-board; forwarding horses southward; accumulating men at suspicious stations; and adding with immense activity to its stores of material. Its ally Piedmont (using the nuptial torch of a

princess as a lighted match) makes equally striking movements; while Austria shows that she believes both Powers in earnest, by gathering up her gigantic strength and standing on the *qui vive*. If symptoms go for anything in anything, they surely all point one way here; and, on the other side, what is there likely to stave off the explosion? One of the Powers threatening each other must yield—and which of them is it likely to be? Will Austria, or France with Sardinia—for the last-named make but one Power in the present crisis—give in before it comes to bloodshed?

Austria cannot yield without losing her rank in Europe, and giving to France the dictatorship of the Continent. Whatever her administration in Lombardy or Venice, she rules in both countries by public law; by a succession in one case, perfectly legitimate according to the customs of nations; and in the other case by an arrangement following on war and confirmed by treaties. To surrender this position at the bidding of France—of France, which the other day intervened in Rome against the Roman people, to maintain a tyranny more degrading than any Austria practises—is what nobody has a right to demand from a first-rate empire. Europe could not hold together for ten years were such a precedent allowed. If France is to intervene in Italy, why not in Prussia? why not in Spain? Pretensions may easily be made, for Prussia is a German Power, holding

Wends and Poles in subjection, and a Protestant Power holding Catholics (in the Rhenish provinces) in subjection. Here, then, you have offended "nationalities," if that be what you want, and subjugated creeds, which some people (the Irish, for instance,) probably think worse. There would be no end to such work, if it was once countenanced. And, observe, that whatever be Austria's misdoings in her Italian administration, it is this incessant bullying of her, and meddling with her, which is in some degree the cause of them. No Power can hold a country in quiet and amicable ways, if that country is being incessantly stirred and made restive from without. She is driven to govern harshly, and so the evils act and re-act on each other; the agitation increases the despotism, the despotism foment the agitation.

A congress is talked of to mediate in this matter. But Austria, by submitting her Italian administration to a congress, would be conceding the principle at stake—the principle that she is not accountable to France for her political conduct. And such congress, too, would inflate the French Emperor's dictatorial ambition out of all bounds, and place all Europe crouching at his feet. We must speak out on this subject. It is not for England's honour to do anything further to swell Louis Napoleon's power or to flatter his pride. Let us be his friends, but not his tools. Let us be as civil to him as possible, as Em-



HALL AND STAIRCASE, OF THE PALACE OF PRINCE FREDERICK-WILLIAM OF PRUSSIA: VISITS OF CONGRATULATION



peror of the French, but let us stop short of encouraging him to be dictator of the Continent. By steadily holding aloof from him from this point of view we may add somewhat to the other influences which still deter his ambition; the unpopularity, for instance, of war in France, if, indeed, the French nation have still a voice against anything likely to be gratifying to the French army. Meanwhile, whatever come of the complications out of which at present nothing but war seems likely to come, non-intervention must be the steady policy of Great Britain. The navy and the militia are sufficient for our independence; and though we have no affection for Austria above other empires, she is at present the threatened Power, and the guilt of blood will be on the head of those who make the first hostile move.

At home, we are on the eve, no doubt, of a little war of our own—not to be carried on with cannon and musket, but with speech and articles. Already two Reform Bills are before the country—at least the elements of two—that of Mr. Bright and that of the "Times." A third is certain from the Government. And as everybody, who to a knowledge of the first four rules of arithmetic adds the possession of a copy of "Dod's Electoral Facts," is capable of constructing some Reform Bill, there is no knowing how many more we may be favoured with. It would be useless to predict the result of such a conflict of jarring elements as that afforded by the present House of Commons. That Mr. Bright's Bill should pass, as it stands, is utterly inconceivable. That the Government's should pass, if Palmerston or Russell can get into place by overthrowing it, is also inconceivable. That some bill will pass, however, is nearly certain, and its nature may be predicted. It will be as fair a bill as the jealousies of party may allow; and it will not be an extreme bill, for the country is not in an extreme humour. So much, we say, is sure, and all the rest is conjecture—and on a subject on which one man's conjectures are marvellously alike in value to those of any other man. We might guess, indeed, that a statesman known to be profoundly contemptuous of reform, like Palmerston, would content himself with voting for the Reform Bill he despised least; always supposing that he should fail to capsize the whole projects by involving the country in the frenzy of some "foreign" controversy. We might guess that a statesman known for his constant profession of reform principles, like Lord John Russell, would vote for the best Reform Bill propounded, for the sake of the general cause. But it is useless at such a time to judge from people's antecedents or professions. Both these statesmen have their own game—as well as that of reform—to play; both must watch how the measures of Bright and the Government tell for their own game first of all; and, with a House like the present, elected, not on any principle but under the influence of a personal "cry"—a House on whose consistency nobody can calculate from day to day—it is utterly impossible that we can predict the course of action of the best-known veterans among our ex-ministers. In fact, except their mere personal devotees, the mass of politicians, probably, are not prepared to "follow" either of them, but will vote for anybody's bill (modified, as it goes along, by themselves and others) which may do as much of the common reform work as the country is really anxious to have done just now.

And that last is just the point on which the country had better make up its mind at once. As yet, there is little means of knowing what it really wants; but petitions ought now to be tumbling in, and meetings ought to be discoursing political music for our benefit in town. What is wanted is a moderate measure which shall increase the suffrage without swamping the present electors, and abolish the inferior boroughs without swamping the counties and their towns. This is easily said. And it is easy with the help of "Dod" and the "Times" of the 28th ult. to cut and hash the constitution according to "population" and "income-tax." Unfortunately, Great Britain is a complex affair. There are moral interests to be considered, as well as questions of number; tradition and habit must be thought of as well as the rule of three. Our Reform Bill will be complex in proportion to the country with which it has to deal. And, hence, we expect prolonged and tedious discussions; it may be an appeal to the country in the course of them; and a compromise as the result of the whole affair.

THE PRINCESS FREDERICK-WILLIAM.

THE electric telegraph did kindly service on Thursday week, when it informed Queen Victoria, in Windsor Castle, six minutes after the occurrence, that her daughter in Berlin had given a Prince to the house of Prussia. It must have gladdened the hearts both of the Queen, and of her venerable mother, who has lived to see four generations of her house flourishing together.

To the Prussians the happy event was made known in quite another manner, by the thunder of artillery. One hundred and one shots were fired in four discharges. The guns were placed in front of the Artillery Barracks at the Kupfergraben, not two minutes' distance from the palace of Prince Frederick-William, so that the Princess must have had a pretty considerable charge on her nerves at this time. The people crowded round the palace and about the guns, and there was no face in the multitude but shone with sympathy and delight.

As soon as evening fell the city was in a blaze of illumination; and the news having by this time spread everywhere, crowds of people poured into the streets, spite of the rain which fell in torrents. The most noisy demonstrations of delight and loyalty took place before the palace of his Royal Highness Prince Frederick-William. Cheer followed cheer, and several times the Prince Regent, Princess of Prussia, and Prince Frederick-William appeared on the balcony to thank the multitude and receive their salutations. In the theatres the National Hymn, "Heil dir im Siegerkranz," was loudly demanded and enthusiastically sung by the crowded assemblies. A vast number of pedestrians filling the Schlossplatz, Unter den Linden, Opern Platz, König's Strasse, &c., belonged to the respectable and wealthy classes; and a few ladies, allured by patriotism and the brilliancy of the illuminations, were induced to brave the stormy night.

It appears that the Princess Frederick-William was present the evening before her accouchement at the representation of "Lohengrin," Wagner's new opera; and on the morning of the memorable 27th of January itself, we are told she was in good health and excellent spirits. In the afternoon her royal husband left the palace to take a stroll in the Thiergarten; but had not time to extend his saunter to the more distant and solitary parts of the park, when one of his adjutants came galloping up, requesting his immediate return to the Palace. A few minutes after his arrival there, young Fritz made his *entrée* into the world. A flag was instantly hoisted as a signal to the gunners, who, in full parade dress, and accompanied by a band, had the cannons drawn out, and immediately set about firing the prescribed salute. A few minutes later, as we have said, the continuous series of squares, extending from the Schloss to the Brandenburger Thor, perfectly overflowed with human beings. Prussian flags were hung out, the Union Jack raised, and national honours displayed in many private and public buildings. At this juncture, old Field-Marshal von Wrangel, a well-known character in Berlin, stepped out from beneath the portal of Prince Frederick-William's palace, and, being greeted by many voices in the crowd with the words, "Well, how are affairs

progressing?" earned much applause, by replying in his blunt, soldier-like way: "Alles gut, Kinder; ein derber, rustiger Rekrut, wie man es nur verlangen kann." (All is going on well, children—and as lusty a young recruit as you could wish to see.)

The same evening, a ball was improvised at the Prince of Prussia's, to which invitations were orally sent round, in the most informal manner possible. Half the members of the Landtag appeared, and all present were compelled to take part in the dance. His Royal Highness the Prince Regent himself, though his warmest admirers can scarcely pretend to praise his capabilities for tripping on the light fantastic toe, led in a Polonaise, and remained among the guests as late as two o'clock in the morning. The whole seems to have been a lively, hearty affair.

The next morning, according to an old German custom, was ushered in by brass bands playing sacred music on the open galleries of all the towns in the capital. The melody chosen for the occasion was Luther's grand chorale, "Lobet den Herrn, den mächtigen König der Ehren" ("Praise the Lord, the mighty King of Honours"). The same hymn had been played a few minutes after the birth of the Prince from the height of the Schloss chapel. At eleven o'clock, Prince Frederick-William had all the members of his household assembled in the nursery, and presented to them the young Prince. The child was slumbering, and the father held it in his arms. Shortly afterward came a deputation from the Legislative Chambers, to congratulate his Royal Highness; and all sorts of festivals in all sorts of places were set on foot. There is a talk of forming a committee to secure for all poor children born in Prussia on the 27th ult., the sum of 250 thalers on reaching their twenty-fourth year.

A correspondent says:—

"Though we ought to know better, accidental coincidences will exert much influence here, and I cannot help remarking that the birth-day of the young Anglo-Prussian Prince is also that of Frederick the Great. Perhaps this coincidence of the young Prince's birth-day with that of Frederick the Second may procure for him the name Frederick the Third, which hitherto no father of a Prussian heir to the throne has felt courage enough to select for his issue. The Frederick-Williams, who at first alternated with the Fredericks in the Prussian line of kings, have, since Frederick the Second's death, become very numerous, and if this young Prince was to be baptised Frederick-William, he would, on ascending the throne, perhaps, be the sixth in an unbroken line of Frederick-Williams. If the little boy should strongly resemble his father, he would resemble Frederick the Second likewise, for the present Prince Frederick-William of Prussia, alone of all the princes of the house of Hohenzollern, bears an unmistakable likeness to Frederick the Second, although he is no direct descendant of his. I have heard it narrated that once, when some private theatricals were indulged in by the Court circle, where the Prince had to appear in the garb of the great king, the spectators felt almost something like a fright at the likeness, which is said not merely to extend to the features but to the character as well. For in his youth Frederick the Great was what the Prince is said to be now, a jovial, open-hearted man, greatly influenced by his enthusiastic and his satiric vein."

"The birth-day of Frederick the Great continues to be still celebrated at Berlin, though exclusively by the Academy of Science, the royal philosopher's favourite foundation; and so it was this year. A sitting is held, and the proceedings commence by one of the members delivering a short speech in commemoration of the founder of the institution. When, on the 27th ult., Professor Trendelenburg commenced that speech, the venerable old Humboldt sitting at his side, the boom of the artillery had already begun to announce to the metropolis and to the academy, whose assembly-room is situated close by the palace, the happy event of Princess Frederick-William's delivery of a child, and the proceedings were delayed until, from the number of detonations, it had been ascertained that the child was a Prince. The professor then did not allow the opportunity to escape to impart a little more of colour and liveliness to his commemorative speech than what one is accustomed to look for in academical speeches."

Nor is the birth-day of the infant Prince the only auspicious circumstance attendant on his entry into the world. The celebrated astronomer and natural philosopher, Dr. August, writes to the "Vossische Zeitung":—"While the jubilant voice of thanksgiving was ascending to Heaven, the constellation known to the astronomers under the name of 'Frederick's honour,' and baptised so in memory of old Fritz of Prussia, stood in the zenith of Berlin. This extraordinary coincidence of the heavens took place at the exact moment of the birth of the young Prince. Half-an-hour later, another constellation, the 'Stars in Crown and Sword,' culminated, too, over Berlin." Now, if horoscope-taking be worth a great, this infant must at least be destined to become an Alexander."

The Berlin newspapers are full of patriotic letters and poems in celebration of the event. A big book has been placed in the hall of the palace (of which we engrave an illustration), where the people sign their names in congratulation, and it is said to be already nearly full. We may add that the palace in which the little Prince was born, and in which our view is taken, is the edifice built for the residence of the Prince and Princess Frederick-William. The Princess herself took a very active interest in its erection.

The statement which has gone the round of the daily press, about the visit of the Queen to assist at the christening of her grandchild, in the Prussian capital, is incorrect. But it is expected the Princess Frederick-William of Prussia will come to England sometime in the spring, to visit her parents.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

NOTHING but rumours of war reach us from France; and that the French people, pacific as they are said to be in sentiment, fear an explosion, is shown by the continued fall in the value of public securities. All sorts of rumours are afloat—even to such as this:—that Lieutenant Laity, who "assisted" at the lamentable *fiasco* of Strasbourg, is to replace M. Delangle as Minister of the Interior! There can be no doubt of one thing—that great preparations for war are in progress everywhere. Of the many rumours afloat, the following is the most noteworthy; that Marshal Magnan will be nominated to the vacant post of Chancellor of the Legion of Honour; that the Duke of Malakoff will succeed him in command of the army of Paris; and that Count de Persigny will return as Ambassador to England.

The pamphlet, "Aurons nous la Guerre?" which advocated a peace policy in rather emphatic terms, has been seized!

AUSTRIA.

A DEPUTATION of Bank directors waited on the Emperor, a few days since, to thank him for the assistance received from the State; and "they were told by his Majesty that things had taken a more favourable turn in Paris." This is what rumour says.

The exportation of horses towards the frontiers of Lombardy, Tyrol, and the borders of the Adriatic has been prohibited.

It is generally believed in Austria that the Government of that country is now on better terms with Russia; and that the Czar is becoming rather alarmed and disgusted at the attitude taken by Louis Napoleon as arbiter in every difference that may arise among European states.

Austrian credit certainly appears to be at a low ebb. The Messrs. Rothschild have issued propositions for an Austrian loan of £6,000,000, at the price of £80 for every £100 stock, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum; and English capitalists have so poor an opinion of their security, that at first they would not give more than 78 for it. However, the price afterwards crept up—slowly. The full significance of this will be felt, when it is observed that the new Five per cent. Austrian stock at 80 is only equal to Consols at 48; the present price of the latter being now 95½ to 95, or nearly double that of the former. In other words, while England can borrow money at three per cent., Austria has to pay six per cent., and even at this extravagant rate lenders are shy.

PRUSSIA.

Of course the great news from Prussia is that the Princess Frederick-William has given birth to a boy; that he is a hearty, healthy fellow;

and that his mother, our much-loved princess, has passed through her peril as well as we could have hoped. An account of the rejoicings which attended the birth of the infant Prince will be found in another column.

A letter from Berlin states that the following nominations have been submitted to the Prince Regent for the four principal embassies:—M. Bismarck, to St. Petersburg; M. de Werther, to Vienna; M. Usedom, to Frankfurt; Count Pourtales, to Paris.

RUSSIA.

We learn from St. Petersburg that the attitude of the Cabinet of Vienna on the Serbian question has attracted the attention of the Russian Government. M. de Balatine, who requested instructions on the subject, as soon as he knew of the order given to the commander of Semlin, has been told to adhere to the declarations of the representatives of the other Powers of Vienna.

The loan with Messrs. Rothschild which has been under negotiation for some time past is now nearly concluded. It is to amount to thirty millions of roubles.

The grand Duchess Helena, widow of the Grand Duke Michael, brother of the late Emperor Nicholas, has given freedom to the serfs upon her estates from the 13th of the present month, and upon the most liberal conditions. Besides their "enclosure," including house, kitchen, garden, poultry-yard, and shed, each will receive four acres of arable land for which he can pay an annual sum, quite insignificant, about half a rouble or so. They will, moreover, receive wages from 25 to 40 roubles a year for their labour upon the Grand Duchess's estates.

ITALY.

THE rumours from Piedmont, and on the affairs of Piedmont, are so numerous and contradictory, that by this time the public must be almost tired of them. Now it is peace—now it is war; though it must be confessed that the warlike rumours are by far the most numerous. Moreover, they appear to have a considerable basis of fact. It is said that the King has appointed the whole staff of war-generals—the command-in-chief being conferred on De la Roca. The defence of the all-important stronghold of Alessandria is intrusted to Gianotti, General Fanti commands the vanguard, or army of observation, on the Ticino, 16,000 men; while Della Marmora and Cialdini have separate *corps d'armée* under their guidance, both possessing the unlimited confidence of the troops. Other lists are afloat, but the significant thing is that these commands should be settled at all.

It is pretty confidently stated that Lord Malmesbury has written a note to Sardinia, intended to divert her from the dangerous path she seems willing to follow; and also a note to Austria containing a warm exhortation to the Imperial government to remedy the serious grievances of Italy, thus destroying the causes and pretexts of the threatened war. One of the causes of quarrel between Austria and Sardinia is said to arise from Austria not extending to Sardinia the commercial advantages given to Modena.

Fresh troops continue to pour into Lombardy, and the Austrians are still strengthening their position with great assiduity.

The health of the King of Naples is much improved.

There have been slight disturbances at Imola, in the Papal Legations, but they were soon suppressed. At Forlì, also in the Legations, a pistol was fired at the Inspector of Police, but fortunately he escaped unscathed.

The University of Padua is to be immediately re-opened.

The following extraordinary war demonstration is stated by the "Opinione" to have occurred at Milan on January 17.—Yesterday the pupils of the St. Alexander Lyceum refused to attend the German lecture. The professor made them a speech in which he said it was quite time that foolish demonstrations should be discontinued. Winding up a fervent discourse, he exclaimed with energy, "Let all good lads remain with me, and all the bad may go." To his utter astonishment the entire class took him at his word, and rushed off as fast as their legs could carry them.

CORFU.

MR. GLADSTONE has accepted the Lord High Commissionership of the Ionian Islands, though his tenure of that office will be of extremely short duration. Some time next week he will be recalled, and his successor appointed; so that, although Mr. Gladstone's temporary acceptance of office vacates his seat for the University of Oxford, he will be re-eligible by the time a fresh election can take place, while the primary measures connected with the better administration of the islands will be introduced with greater advantage than by any successor to his office. Mr. Gladstone opened the Ionian Parliament on the 25th. It appears that the Deputies who made a reply to his speech, expressed a decided desire for a union with Greece.

Colonel Sir Henry Storks has been appointed Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands in succession to Mr. Gladstone. He is familiarly acquainted with the languages and character of the people of the South of Europe. His able administration at Scutari, as commandant, during the latter half of the Crimean war, is well known.

Sir John Young left Corfu on Friday week for Italy.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

TWO principal ringleaders in the massacre of the Christians at Jeddah, the chief of the police and the chief of the Adramonts, have been executed at that town. The Camsian and the others accused have been sent to Constantinople, where their fate is to be decided.

The Serbian Skupstchina has decreed the dismissal of the Ministers and of the Senate.

AMERICA.

AMONG the propositions before the American Congress, is a bill, introduced in the Senate on the 17th ult., by a Mr. Slidell, which sets forth that the geographical position of Cuba invests it with a commanding influence over the large and increasing foreign and coastwise trade of the Mississippi valley; that its internal condition and proximity to the United States disturb the friendly relations existing between Spain and the United States government; that as a last means of settling outstanding differences and removing all cause for future disturbances, negotiations for the purchase of the island be renewed; and that 30,000,000 dollars be appropriated to enable the President to conclude a treaty with Spain for the cession of Cuba to the United States. Provision is made for raising the money by loan at five per cent., redeemable in not less than twelve or more than twenty years. This proposition is understood to accord with the views of the President, and has been very favourably received.

Mr. Seward has introduced into the Senate a bill amending existing acts for the suppression of the African slave trade. It provides for the employment of steamers for the capture of slavers, authorises States to pass laws to suppress the traffic in foreign slaves, and appropriates a million of dollars to carry into execution the provisions of the bill. It was referred to a judiciary committee.

Mr. Morris, of Pennsylvania, has given notice that he will bring forward an International Copyright Bill, and press its passage this session of Congress.

The President has officially informed the Senate that the yacht *Wanderer* had landed a cargo of Africans on the southern coast of the United States, and also that the Government would make every effort to bring the guilty parties to punishment. It was deemed inexpedient to communicate the correspondence regarding the affair.

Two English convicts, who arrived in New York in the ship *Washington*, went before the mayor, and told him they would have to return to their former profession—they were burglars—if they were not provided with food. They were sent back to England by the mayor, at the expense of the owners of the *Washington*.

After years of defiance of the Government, Brigham Young, the leader of the Mormons, on the 5th of December last, civilly attended the Utah District Court as a witness, in ready compliance with a subpoena served upon him by the marshal. This is an unexpected proof of his submission to the United States.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Advisers from Cape Town to the 22nd December inform us that, under the mediation of Governor Grey, the Free State and the Basutos have made an equitable treaty. The foreign trade of the colony is in a flourishing state. The total imports for the year ending the 30th of September are valued at £2,521,212; exports, £1,814,171; showing an increase of nearly £200,000 on each over 1857. The Customs' duties received amount to £251,000—an increase of more than £30,000.

The Boers appear to have opened a slanderous attack on the missionaries, who are headed by Mr. Moffat, the father-in-law of Dr. Livingstone. As a specimen, Dr. Livingstone is styled "an unmitigated liar," "a contemptible creature," "one of the reverend fire-brand whom the English public pays to pamper its morbid appetite for exaggerated falsehood." The "Cape and Natal News" says, "Irrespective of this attack on English subjects, there is little doubt that the Boers would like to stop the communication with the interior, so important for the civilisation of the native tribes and the extension of British commerce. Thus it is suspected they would secure their own slave trade, and be able to establish relations with the Portuguese slave dealers on the coast. By the treaty by which the republic was established slavery was not to be allowed, but that it is universally practised is notorious. On this condition the English Government undertook to prevent the natives being supplied with arms and gunpowder, which is strictly carried out, so that they are placed at the mercy of the Boers; and, as long as this continues, the English Government cannot be regarded otherwise than as a participant in the ruthless and cruel manner in which the tribes, rendered by its act unable to defend themselves, are treated. Even their neighbours in the Orange Free State are disgusted at the style in which prisoners are massacred in cold blood, and neither women nor children spared in the frequent 'commandoes' of the Boers."

MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCE NAPOLEON AND THE PRINCESS CLOTILDE.

The marriage of the Prince Napoleon took place on Sunday. On the previous day Count Cavour, in his character of notary of the Crown, drew up the matrimonial contract in presence of General Niel, the French Ambassador, Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne, and the grand dignitaries of the State. In the evening a deputation of the National Guard was presented to the Princess at a grand banquet. Later in the evening a serenade took place on the Place Royale, by the band of the National Guard in honour of the betrothed couple, which was accompanied by shouts of "Viva le R^e!" "Viva la Reine!" The town celebrated the event by a general illumination. Next day, at ten a.m. the marriage was celebrated. The benediction was pronounced by Archbishop Verel, assisted by the Bishops Casale, Pignorel, Savone, and Bielle. A few hours after the ceremony was performed the married couple departed for Genoa, accompanied by the King and the royal family. Here they were welcomed with fervent demonstration of delight. From Genoa they went to Marseilles, proposing to arrive in Paris on Thursday afternoon. The new married couple are to reside at the Palais Royal.

The clauses in the marriage contract are nearly as follows.—The Princess receives a marriage portion of 500,000 lire and 100,000 lire in jewels. France, on her part, promises to the Imperial pair an allowance of 200,000 francs a year, besides 100,000 francs to the Princess as pocket money. It appears that, according to the rules of the Roman Catholic Church, to enable the marriage of Prince Napoleon and the Princess Clotilde to be celebrated on a Sunday a dispensation from Rome was necessary. The Pope granted it of course, and added his congratulations to the bargain.

The Empress Eugénie presented the bride with a ring, it is said, accompanied by the following autograph letter:—"It is customary in Spain, when a young person takes a husband, for her best friend to offer her a ring. A Spaniard by birth, I wish to observe towards you the tradition of my country. Will you, then, receive this ring, and permit me, while waiting to embrace you as a cousin, to call myself your best friend?"

THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF FRANCE.

The "Constitutionnel" has the following article (which is said to have been sent to that paper direct from the Tuileries, without the formality of passing through the War Office, or Office for Foreign Affairs) in reply to some remarks in the "Daily News":—

"The 'Daily News,' in an article the kindly spirit of which we are happy to acknowledge, announces that 'the Emperor Napoleon has at his disposal 100,000 men; but that, if we deduct from this number the 130,000 men he requires at Paris, a considerable force at Lyons, and the 70,000 men occupied in Algeria, he would only have 130,000 men left to place in line in case of war.'"

"Although we have the well-founded hope that the Emperor will not have to employ the forces of the country, we consider ourselves bound in honour to rectify the facts. At present Algeria occupies in fact 70,000 men, but our rule would not be endangered by reducing this figure to 50,000. Paris at present has not a garrison of 130,000 men, but only of 30,000. Lyons has a garrison of 10,000 men, but they are by no means indispensable, and might be considerably reduced."

"We shall give the forces of the empire in case of war, and it will be seen that, without having recourse to any extraordinary measure, France could collect a very considerable army."

"On the 1st of April, by keeping the whole contingent of the class of 1857 under arms, and not granting furloughs, we have under our flag 508,000 men. On the 1st of June, by calling in the entire contingent of the class of 1858, we should have under the flag, as may be seen by the following tables, 632,000 men, and with the volunteers, who in case of war always amount in France to about 50,000 men, we should attain the figure of 682,000 men."

"The general strength of the army on April 1, 1859, will be:—Infantry (serving and belonging to the classes preceding the year 1857), 208,728; on furlough, 90,000; men of the class 1857, and serving, 43,500; total, 351,278. In the same way the cavalry is 46,900, 12,500; in all, 72,100; the artillery, 27,450, 13,900, 2,900; total, 44,250; the engineers, 6,710, 4,600, 150; total, 11,760; military train, 1,870, 1,400, 150; 3,720; giving a total for the force actually serving of 294,658 men; of men on furlough, 134,100; of men belonging to the class 1857, of 60,000; and in all, 489,058. Further, there is the squadron of the coast guards, equal to 142 men; the Imperial Guard, 29,800; the staffs, gendarmes, foreign and indigenous corps, all of which are recruited on the voluntary system, 49,000 men; giving a grand total of 568,000 men."

"Although the annual contingent is 100,000 men, it is only put down as 60,000, because 18,000 are excused every year, 5,000 are set apart for the navy, and 17,000 sent home to support their families."

"The men on furlough liable to be called in are soldiers, nearly all of whom went through the Crimean campaign, to whom leave of absence was given on economical motives, and who in a week could rejoin their corps."

"The strength of the army on the 1st of June will be in totals as before, and respectively for the infantry 399,978; cavalry, 83,800; artillery, 46,150; engineers, 12,110; military train, 10,120; coast guards, 142; imperial guard, 29,800; the other corps, specified above, 49,000; volunteers, 50,000; giving a grand total of 672,400 men."

"The regiments consist of battalions, war squadrons, and depôts. In case of war the depôts would be more than sufficient to maintain tranquillity at home, besides feeding the battalions and squadrons of war. Let us admit to these depôts a number equal to 100,000 men, to which are to be added 25,000 gendarmes, Parisian guards, &c., and 50,000 for Algeria, making in all 175,000 men kept at home, and which have to be deducted from the above grand total of 672,000 men, leaving 500,000 men. Thus France, instead of being able to place in line only 130,000 men, as the 'Daily News' supposes, could if required place 500,000, without changing the working of her military institutions in any way. We repeat that we do not give these figures to make a parade of our forces or prepare the public mind for a contest; on the contrary, we believe firmly in the maintenance of peace; but, after all, the best mode of maintaining it for a great nation is to prove that she is not unarmed."

The publication of this article caused an immediate fall on the Bourse.

THE RIFLE PIKERS.—An officer of the Emperor of Morocco lately arrived in the mountains of the Rif, and summoned the rebel chief Benissid to deliver up Lieutenant Alvarez and other Spanish prisoners. The chief of the tribe formally refused to obey the Emperor until the Spaniards had delivered up the cannon which they had taken from him. It now remains to be seen whether the Emperor of Morocco will be strong enough to enforce obedience.

REVOLUTION IN HAYTI.

A revolution of a republican character has proved successful in Hayti. We read:—

"On Wednesday, December 22, General Fabre Goffard sailed from Port-au-Prince in a small sailing-boat, with his son, M. Ernest Roumain, and a Frenchman, and landed at a neighbouring town; they were there joined by some confederates—M. Aimé, Lezard, and others, and having procured horses, these five persons rode into town, pistol in hand, crying 'Viva la République! Viva la Liberté!' No one stopping them, they arrived at the chief guardhouse, where the soldiers, either from fear or from being favourable to the cause, bent the alarm as desired. Pursuing their way, they reached the governor's house; but before arriving they let all prisoners loose that were working in the street, telling them to shout 'Viva la Liberté!' and which they were but too happy to comply with. The governor at first hesitated to accept the cause, but being a very old man, and wishing also to prevent bloodshed, he at last accepted, and with him all the functionaries. The next day General Goffard was solemnly proclaimed President of the Republic at Hayti, and General Salomon confirmed to be judge of the High Court of Justice on several occasions. After this formality, the president repaired to church, where a solemn Te Deum was chanted, and a most impressive and stirring appeal made to the people by the Rev. Abbé Gerolles in favour of the cause. The president also made a very eloquent speech, in which he stated the causes for the revolution, and promised that a thorough reform should be made to insure the welfare of the country."

"On Friday, Dec. 21, he left for St. Marc (a well fortified town), the commander of which joined him immediately, and gave his adherence to the cause. Well and firmly established there with two regiments, he awaited the submission of the other towns, and soon Cape Hayti, Faisance, Port de Paix, Limbe, St. Michel, &c.—in fact, the whole of the north—admitted him as their ruler, and they are now waiting but to concentrate troops to march at once to the capital, where it is expected not much resistance to his entry will be made."

"General Goffard is nearly a black man, of fifty years of age, possessing a great deal of intelligence, and most gentlemanly in his manners. He is beloved by the army and people, and has always shown himself friendly to foreigners."

A retrospective review of the political history of this unfortunate island will hardly be unacceptable to our readers just now:—

The island of St. Domingo is divided into two separate States—that on the west side being the empire of Faustin the First, the ex-emperor, and known as Hayti; and that on the east side comprising the independent (Spanish) republic of Dominica, of which General Santana is the President. In the year 1791 the negroes of Hayti revolted against their French masters; and in 1803, under Toussaint L'Ouverture, obtained their independence as a free republic. The eastern side of the island, which constituted the old Spanish colony of St. Domingo, took no part in this servile insurrection, nor were the slaves there liberated until 1821, when President Boyer, of Hayti, rendered that portion of the island subject to the sway of the Republic of Hayti. Up to 1844 the island remained under one Government, but the cruelty and ill-treatment which the white races received at the hands of the negroes, who are largely in the ascendancy, drove those of Spanish and Indian blood into insurrection, when, after two or three decisive conflicts, the soldiers of Hayti, then commanded by the late Emperor (then General) Soulouque, were driven back to their own side of the island, and the new Republic of Dominica was proclaimed. The leader of this revolution was Pedro Santana, a native of Seybo, in the eastern part of the island, where he spent his early life among the herdsmen of that province. But in his retirement he cherished the idea of redeeming his country from the brutal tyranny of the negro race. Santana, with a handful of men (about 500) rose in arms, engaged, and utterly routed the large army of Soulouque at Carreras, and from that time an incessant war long raged between the two rival "nations," as they are styled. The Republic of Dominica has, moreover, been a prey to civil war. Santana and Baz have each been in the presidential seat three or four times, and as often in prison or in exile. General Baz has but recently passed through New York on his way to exile in Europe, and Santana has been restored to the Presidency. Thus, while the new Republic was ruining its own prospects by intestine feuds for the last ten or twelve years, Soulouque was also plotting its destruction by conquest. In the year 1817, Soulouque, who was born a slave on the plantation of M. Vailler, was, almost by an accident, elected President of the Republic of Hayti. The contending candidates were about even, and enough of the friends of both united at the last hour to support and elect Soulouque. It was then supposed that he was a man of no strength of character and might become the tool of his party; but, like Louis Napoleon (of whose political history Soulouque's is a ridiculous burlesque), he proved himself not a slave, but a tyrant; and his unfortunate people have been since mercilessly dealt with, and his dominions reduced almost to ruin. After being President of the Republic for two years he was declared Emperor, in August, 1849, greatly to the astonishment of every one. It cannot be forgotten that soon after his elevation to the throne he instituted several orders of nobility after the fashion of European monarchies, created a batch of princes, dukes, marquises, and knights out of his burly negro friends, and gave them pompous, loud-sounding, and sometimes ridiculous titles, such as the Duke de Lemonade, the Duke de la Marmalade, and so forth. In 1852 he caused himself and his Empress to be crowned, with great show and ceremony, at Port-au-Prince, his capital. Never having acknowledged the independence of the Dominican Republic, but always avowing that it was a portion of his empire, he undertook to reduce it to subjection in 1855, and in the month of December of that year advanced with an army of 5,000 men to the frontiers of Dominica. Here the Dominicans, under the Liberator Santana, met him with a most inferior force. Two battles—those of San Tome and Cabronal—ensued, each lasting about five hours. Victory at last declared for the Dominicans, Soulouque sustaining a defeat which, like that of Napoleon the Great at Waterloo, was tantamount to a total overthrow. For a time Soulouque was regarded as dead—physically as well as politically—but he at length found his way back to Port-au-Prince, and recommenced his oppressive and tyrannical rule. The interference of France and England, however, and the bold attitude of the Dominicans themselves, prevented any further aggression on the part of their swart enemy, the "Emperor" of Hayti, and an armistice of three years (which expired on the 15th of January) was granted. Meanwhile Soulouque himself had lost his copper crown, after a manner as much the reverse of dignified as old Louis Philippe when he slunk out of the Tuileries by a back-door, and fled from his capital in a hackney-coach. After the late commercial crisis in Hayti, want and misery became so great that the people murmured openly and evinced much discontent; the enlightened portion of the people soon perceived that the moment was propitious to throw off their yoke, and with one accord decided on the overthrow of Soulouque, which they have done so far that half (the French part) of the island is in their possession.

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PRESIDENT BUCHANAN AND THE MORTARA CASE.—The United Congress of the States in New York having appended to Frederick Buchanan to interfere in behalf of the child Mortara, the President replies, declining to do so. He says:—"I have long been convinced that it is neither the right nor the duty of this Government to exercise a moral censorship over the conduct of other independent governments, and to rebuke them for acts which we may deem arbitrary and unjust towards their own citizens or subjects. Such a practice would tend to embroil us with all nations. We ourselves would not permit any foreign Power thus to interfere with our domestic concerns, and enter protests against the legislation or the action of our Government towards our own citizens. If an attempt of this kind were made, we should promptly advise such a government in return to confine themselves to their own affairs, and not intermeddle with our concerns. It is, perhaps, fortunate that the assertion of the principle of non-interference on the part of the United States between Foreign Sovereigns and their own subjects has arisen in a case so well calculated to enlist our sympathies as that of the Mortara family. For this reason the precedent will be so much the stronger, and be entitled to the more binding force. It is enough for us to defend the rights of our own citizens, under treaties or the law of nations, whenever and wherever these may be assailed by the government of any foreign country. JAMES BUCHANAN. Mr. Ben. W. Hart, 48, Pine Street, New York."

IRELAND.

PURSUIT OF THE MURDERER OF MR. LAY.—The "Clonmel Chronicle" of Saturday says:—"Intelligence has reached Clonmel that the constabulary of the police-stations between Dungarvan and Cappoquin have just been engaged in a hot pursuit, through the broken country near Clashmore, after Delany, who has just turned up in that district. The fugitive, it appears, is armed 'to the teeth;' and we regret to state that his extraordinary activity enabled him this once to outrun his pursuers. He escaped into the woods of Ballintaylor, but so exciting was the chase, that, in his passage through that thick plantation, he left behind him his shoes. As the police are now so close upon his trail, his arrest may soon be looked for."

SERIOUS ACCIDENT ON A RACECOURSE.—At Tallaght races, on Monday, just as the horses were about to start for the challenge cup, and when all was excitement, the stand was observed to waver for an instant, and then to come down en masse with some three or four hundred people. There was an immediate rush to the scene of the disaster, and every possible exertion was made to afford rescue and assistance to the sufferers. About thirty persons were injured—seven seriously. The occurrence of the accident is attributed to the effect of the heavy gale of the previous night, which is supposed to have disturbed the principal joinings of the structure.

THE ARRESTS IN THE SOUTH.—The campaign against the Killarney Theobaldians has not yet terminated. Several arrests were made last week. A movement is on foot for collecting subscriptions toward the defence of the "patrols."

VIVA OMNIBUS INDEED.—The "Limerick Examiner" has an alarming paragraph apropos of the figure of Justice on the portico over the Neshagh Court House:—"Originally, its left hand supported a pair of nicely-balanced, evenly-scooped scales, emblematic of the inflexible but impartial judgment of our proprietors. Whenever strong winds prevailed, however, the balance of the commercial machine was upset, and the opposite sides of the scales swayed up and down until the return of tranquil weather established the equilibrium. After some time, however, it was observed that the balance of the machine was permanently upset, one side uniformly weighing down the other. On examination, it was ascertained that the nose of the statue had yielded to the weather, and having dropped off had fallen into one of the scales. This impediment to the balance of Justice was at once removed, and the machine was secured in a manner calculated to prevent future disturbances of the 'balance of power.' In short, Justice was made 'all right' by sticking a piece of timber into the 'tongue' of the beam, and thus compelling the scales to stand evenly, no matter how overloaded either dish might be. The angle, however, on which the unfortunate brothers Cormack were tried, convicted, and sentenced to be hanged, a furious east wind blew the whole apparatus out of the grasp of the statue, and in the morning its broken fragments were discovered scattered on the steps of the portico. An incident so suggestive to the minds of an imaginative people could not occur without producing much remark and speculation. We may remark, en passant, that the scales have not yet been replaced, and the figure consequently sits with one outstretched arm and empty hand, no longer grasping the emblem of legitimate authority and impartial judgment."

SCOTLAND.

NEW RATE OF THE SUNDRIES.—The manager of the largest factory in Dunfermline, employing 500 or 600 young women, rendered himself particularly unpopular by arranging the factory holiday for New Year's-day, and making a working-day of "Handel Monday," on which balls, concerts, and so forth for the million are held. The consequence was, that an attempt was made on Monday week, by about 100 young men, forcibly to abduct their sweethearts from the factory—the factory-yard being the battle-field—the managers and tenters pulling one way, the lads the other—the lads rather inclining to the abduction. In the end, and after some hard blows, the manager lost his hat and his temper, and had his coat considerably damaged, when he retired within his gates with a goodly number of the female workers, whom, after coming to a better frame of mind, he liberated at an early part of the day.

GREAT FIRE AT EDINBURGH.—Hay's Flour Mills, in Leith Walk, Edinburgh, were destroyed by fire last week, the loss being estimated at £20,000, which is only partially covered by insurance. Many bakers who had wheat in the premises were losers to a heavy extent, few of them being covered by insurance. The officer in command of the fire refused, it is said (though it is scarcely credible) to turn out the engines belonging to the artillery, though requested to do so by one of the magistrates.

THE PROVINCES.

HOLYHEAD HARBOUR.—Both the inner and outer Harbours have been crowded with vessels seeking refuge during the late gales, as many as 300 sail being counted at one time. The harbour is now comparatively empty, though some vessels had been there as long as six weeks. A large quantity of wreck has turned up along the coast, particularly in the Bay of Carraig.

INCENDIARISM.—A fire of a most destructive character broke out on Friday night in the stackyard of South Duffield Lodge, near Selby. The flames extended from stack to stack, until nine were burning at once. A long range of cattle-sheds, which surrounded the burning stacks, became ignited, and their destruction seemed at one time inevitable. The damage done was the total destruction of one stack of peas, the produce of six and a half acres; four wheat stacks, the produce of about forty acres; the produce of thirteen acres of hay in one stack; two stacks of oats, taken off five and a half acres; and part of a stack of clover. From the manner in which the stacks appear to have ignited, it is suspected to have been the work of an incendiary.

REFORM MEETINGS.—Reform meetings continue to be held in various parts of the country, and they are generally well attended. At Birmingham, Ipswich, Halifax, Cirencester, Accrington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Swallow (where there was a torch-light procession), and other places, there have been considerable demonstrations during these few days past.

THE MURDER AT SHEFFIELD.—Some particulars have been published of a brutal murder at Sheffield. George Plant, a brewer's traveller, while under the influence of liquor, stabbed William Wilson, opposite the post-office, with a dagger which he had been displaying in other parts of the town.

MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY OF WEDGWOOD.—Two meetings were held last week, one at Stoke and the other at Burslem, the object of which was to adopt some plan of perpetuating the memory of Josiah Wedgwood. Some gentlemen of Burslem wish to erect a memorial building in that town, to be called the "Wedgwood Institute," at Stoke the proposition made was to erect a statue to him. The chairman of the meeting at Stoke was Mr. Ridgway. A long discussion took place, but neither one project nor the other was decisively adopted. It was then proposed to work the two schemes together, but the number of votes was again equal. A committee was, however, appointed. The Earl of Carlisle presided over the meeting at Burslem, and it was attended by a large number of influential gentlemen. Resolutions in favour of a memorial building were agreed to. It was stated that the working classes were warmly in favour of the project. A subscription has been commenced, which already amounts to upwards of £800.

MR. LINDSAY AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.—Mr. Lindsay has addressed his constituents at South Shields. He spoke in opposition to the shipowners' movement, and refuted their figures with other figures far more to the point. On the invasion of England question, he disclaimed being an alarmist, but at the same time strongly urged an increase of the navy, seeing that the French had the power to blockade all our ports, if they thought proper, and we did not know what might happen. Mr. Lindsay, too, expressed himself as having been greatly grieved by the remarks which Mr. Bright had made in disparagement of the aristocracy. On the question of Reform, Mr. Lindsay pledged himself to no course yet indicated.

MR. SHERIDAN AT DUBLIN.—Mr. Sheridan, M.P., has addressed the electors of Dublin. He gave his general approval to Mr. Bright's bill, and strongly denounced Lord Ward's attempts to coerce the electors of that borough. Lord Ward, it appears, has threatened to use his influence against Mr. Sheridan, whereupon Mr. Sheridan appeals to his constituents against "aristocratic dictation."

THE SALT TRADE.

CONSIDERABLE alarm has been lately experienced in Liverpool, because of the falling of the brine in the Weaver Valley, and of an anticipated falling off of the salt supply in consequence. The subject is certainly of considerable interest, and we present our readers with a view of the interior of a salt work at Winsford, in Cheshire.

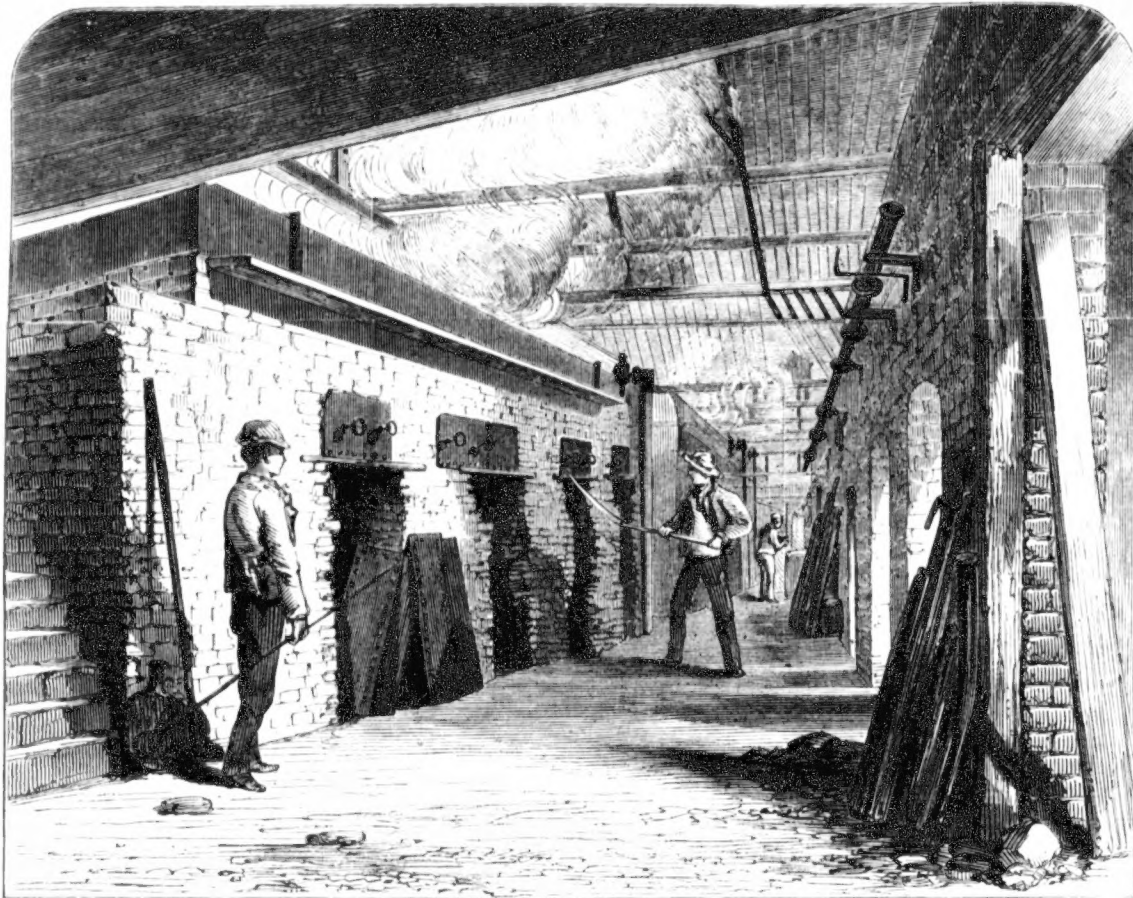
Salt has been manufactured in Cheshire from a very early date. The Romans found the Britons making salt by pouring the brine upon charcoal, and collecting, after the evaporation that took place, the crystals that had clustered amongst the ashes. The Romans introduced their mode of making salt by the use of metal vessels; and it is a singular but an established fact, that no improvement in the manufacture has since been made. The process is extremely simple. The brine or salt water is pumped up from the wells into shallow, open iron pans, about 40 feet long, 24 feet wide, and 15 inches deep; under these pans furnaces are placed, and, according to the quality and fineness of the salt to be produced, the heat of the brine is regulated. The hotter the brine the tiner the salt. Stored or table-salt is produced at

a heat of 220 degrees, common or coarse-grained salt at a temperature of 175 degrees, while bay salt, which is formed by slow evaporation, is made at 110 degrees. As the brine heats, the salt forms in crystals on the top, which, gaining a certain density, fall to the bottom of the pan, whence they are raked out by the workmen, or "salters," as they are called, and placed in "burrows," where the brine is drained off. The drainage runs again into the pans, so that none of it is lost. After sufficient drainage has taken place, the salt is removed to the stove-house, where it is dried, according to the quality and texture. The table-salt is put into boxes and baskets, which turn out the square lumps we see in the shops for sale, as also the baskets, of very fine description.

It is a curious sight to see the crystals forming on the top of the brine, and it is remarkable that occasionally the brine will not produce crystals, until some oleaginous matter has been put into the pans—such as oil or butter—when, after the fatty matter has spread over the surface of the pan, the crystals immediately commence forming. Salt is always found in perfect cubes, however minute the particle may be.

The brine at Northwich and Winsford is considered to be the strongest known in England, and it produced until lately 2lbs. 11oz. to the gallon, but its strength has recently considerably decreased, as the best brine only lately produced 2lbs. 8oz. of salts to the gallon. The brine is brought up generally from a depth of 150 feet from the surface, but it has been found at 40 feet from the surface. It is supposed to be formed from underground currents of water passing over the great salt deposit of Cheshire. There seems to be no doubt that from the immense working of this brine a depression of the subterranean salt formation has been caused, followed by the sinking of the superincumbent earth; and thus the brine streams have been diverted. That these streams are drying up is not at all probable, but great loss will doubtless be occasioned before new workings can be made, new shafts sunk, and the brine currents again discovered. The salt formation of Cheshire is illimitable.

The first discovery of the salt rock in Cheshire took place in 1670, while sinking a brine-pit at Marbury, in Cheshire; and it was again found, in 1770, at Witton-on-the-Weaver. The salt formation extends a mile and a half north-east and south-west, and about one thousand



INTERIOR OF THE SALT WORKS AT WINSFORD, CHESHIRE.

yards in the opposite direction at Northwich, which is built entirely over the salt mines. The land occasionally gives way, and houses become engulfed. In many places, the Weaver river flows over portions of Cheshire that were dry land; and at Winsford, under which the salt formation also exists, the land is evidently sinking. In a portion of the river Weaver, called the "Flashes," the land is constantly disappearing, leaving lakes where formerly meadows stood. Rock salt is found at a depth of 100 to 150 feet below the surface; the stratum is 75 feet in thickness; the depths of the mines run about 330 feet; and the masses of salt are blasted and brought up in buckets to the surface, whence they are put into the flats or barges alongside, and so shipped to Liverpool for export to Holland. The two rock pits at Winsford deliver

3 to 4,000 tons annually, the Northwich mines 40 to 50,000 tons annually. The bottom of the mines is very dry, and the work is healthy—the rate of wages is about 2s. 9d. per day.

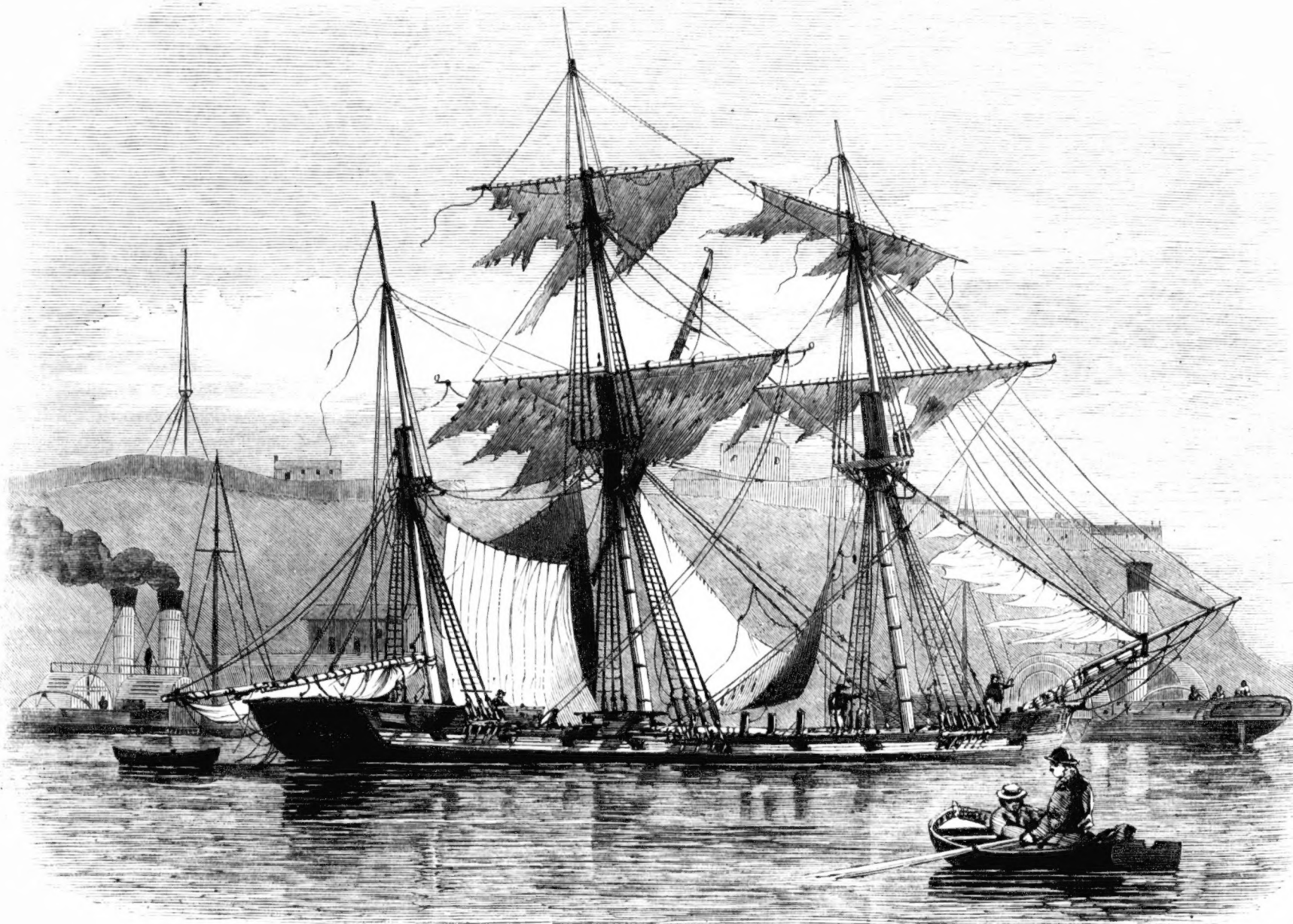
The salt is shipped to Liverpool, and sent down the Weaver river, paying a freight of 3s. per ton; of this 3s. the Weaver navigation receives 1s. per ton, the master of the flat takes 1s. 3d. per ton, out of which he pays a man and a boy wages and haulage from Northwich, or Winsford, to Weston Point, where the flat or barge enters the Mersey river, the remaining 9d. is received by the owner of the flat. The "haulage" means the price paid to men who "haul" the flat along the river Weaver. If men are employed, each man receives 5s., if a horse, 15s., and 5s. for the driver. This amount clears the haulage down and up on returning. The flats in returning take back coals, which are brought from Wigan and St. Helens. The quantity of coal used is about two tons to produce three tons of fine salt, and one ton of coals to produce two tons of common salt.

AN ABANDONED SHIP.

THE *Marianne*, of Falmouth, a large barque, 700 tons burden, and heavily laden with timber, was towed into Queenstown lately, by the *Resolute* and *Retriever*, two of the tugs of the "Liverpool New Steam Tug Company." She had been found by the *Resolute* in long. 16 west, and lat. 48° 30' north, completely abandoned and water-logged. So entirely had the water gained the mastery that her deck was burst up, and her rudder being gone she was quite helpless. The *Resolute* taking her in tow, brought her to harbour, where the tug fortunately obtained the assistance of her consort,

the *Retriever*, which was lashed behind and acted as a rudder upon the crippled ship. Without this assistance it would have been difficult to have brought her into port, and impossible to have carried her through the maze of vessels which lie in the harbour. The barque was sunk to nearly the water's edge, and at every turn rolled fearfully, but between the two good tug-boats she was brought to a secure anchorage opposite Haulbowline.

This great feat speaks well for the enterprise of the Tug Company, which sent one of its vessels upon speculation to the rescue of property a distance of between six and seven hundred miles across the Atlantic. The ship with which the *Resolute* thus fell in, was valued at between four and five thousand pounds, with her cargo.



TOWING THE MARIANNE, WATER-LOGGED BARQUE, INTO QUEENSTOWN HARBOUR.



HER MAJESTY OPENING PARLIAMENT.

ABOLITION OF THE PAPER DUTY.

A DEMONSTRATION of public opinion against the Paper Duties, made at Exeter Hall on Wednesday night, was an appropriate antecedent to the meeting of Parliament. Mr. Milner Gibson, who occupied the chair, was supported by a platform of gentlemen influential and representative—including Mr. Ayrton, M.P., Mr. McCann, M.P., Mr. W. Chambers, and Mr. Cassell—and he was himself received with great fervour by a highly intelligent assembly. So was Mr. William Chambers, of Edinburgh, who delivered a telling speech, but not more so than Mr. Ayrton and Dr. Watts, who showed that the Paper Duty is a tax upon literature, an obstruction to education, an impediment to commerce, and a hindrance to production—that it interferes with the process of manufacture, represses industry, and injures the public revenue. The meeting called upon Mr. Gibson still further to press the House of Commons on this subject, so that in the ensuing session such arrangements might be made as would enable Parliament to dispense with the tax. A petition to the House of Commons was also adopted, without a dissentient voice.

DASTROUS CONFLAGRATIONS.

THIS has been a week of fires. On Sunday night a fire broke out at the premises of a timber merchant and furniture orders, West-lar, Sheffield. The premises were extensive, having a considerable frontage to West-lar, and extending thence by Spring Street. They comprised large furniture shop and stores, with extensive timber-yard and work-shops behind. The stock was immense. The conflagration extended over the whole premises, and threw up a blaze many yards above the loftiest of the surrounding buildings. The whole of the buildings are completely gutted; large portions of the walls are down; in fact nothing is saved. The fire only extended to a shop and a few cottages adjoining Lamin's. There was a tremendous crowd, and the military were called out to clear the streets. The building was insured in the Sheffield Fire-office. The stock was not insured; and the estimated damage is over £10,000.

On the same evening—Sunday last—there was also a great conflagration at Sunderland in a rope factory in Hendon Road. There was an immense quantity of flax, hemp, tar, and other combustible material on the premises, with some 200 barrels of tar in the rear of them. These, however, were safely removed, though some of them were burning at the time. The rope works were totally destroyed—engine, engine-house, factory and machines; nothing but the walls remain.

On Tuesday morning, a fire was discovered in the extensive distillery of Sir James Power, Bart., in John's Lane, Dublin. The flames spread with fearful rapidity, and in a short time a large section of the buildings was enveloped in flame. The fire continued to rage till about four, when it was completely put under. The damage done is estimated at many thousands, but the premises are fully insured in several offices in the city.

At Nottingham the same morning, a great fire broke out on the premises of Messrs. Hine and Mundella, hosiery. The flames swept over a great area of property. All the best engines were on the spot, and the crowd of spectators was so great that the military had to be called out to keep order. The damage was very great.

THE HEALTH OF THE KING OF SWEDEN is very much broken; the Court journal describes his condition as joyless.

TRAGEDY IN MANCHESTER.—Robinson, the keeper of a host-house, in Albert Street, Bridge Street, Manchester, was jealous of his wife, and often reproached her. On Tuesday afternoon some women who live in the cellars under his house heard a heavy fall, and presently afterwards observed blood trickling through the ceiling. They seem to have been afraid to interfere, and not till some time after, when Robinson's daughters returned from the mill in which they worked, was this dreadful fact discovered—that Robinson had first murdered his wife by stabbing her in the neck, had attempted to set the house on fire, turning on the gas, and then had hanged himself. He and his wife were both about fifty years of age.

MR. ALEXANDER, the celebrated oculist, died last week, at his residence, Cork Street.

DEATH OF MR. COMMISSIONER PHILLIPS.—Mr. Commissioner Phillips died of apoplexy, on Tuesday night, at his residence in Golden Square. He was seized with the sudden illness on Monday, after he had sat in the Insolvent Debtors' Court; and to the hour of his death remained in an unconscious state. The late Commissioner was called to the Irish bar in the year 1809, and to the English bar in 1821. He was an able criminal lawyer, and practised at the Old Bailey until his appointment by Lord Brougham, as Lord Chancellor, to the district court of bankruptcy at Liverpool, when the Bankruptcy Laws were altered. There he sat for some years; and on the appointment of Mr. Commissioner Pollock to the chief judgeship of Bombay, he was transferred to the Insolvent Debtors' Court, as one of the commissioners, by which he lost £300 salary. He was commissioner of the last-mentioned court about fourteen years.

DEATH OF THE EARL OF RIPON.—The Earl of Ripon died on Friday morning, the 28th ult., at his residence at Putney Heath. The Earl's career had extended over forty years, and during that period he had occupied some of the highest offices in the Government; for besides having been once, for a few months, First Lord of the Treasury, he joined the administrations of the Earl of Liverpool, the Right Hon. George Canning, Earl Grey, and of the late Sir Robert Peel. The deceased peer, Frederick John Robinson, was second son of Thomas, second Lord Grantham, and Lady Mary Jemima Yorke, second daughter of Philip, second Earl of Hardwicke, by Jemima, Marchioness Grey. He was born Nov. 1, 1782. He was private secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland from 1804 to 1806, in which he was first returned to the House of Commons for Carlisle. At the general election in November, 1807, he was elected a representative of the family borough of Ripon, which he continued to represent for twenty years, up to his elevation to the House of Lords in 1827, under the title of Viscount Gederich. His first office in the Government was that of Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, in 1809, and his last that of President of the Board of Control, under Sir Robert Peel, from 1843 to 1846. Since then the noble deceased took no active part in politics, and, brought up in the Tory school of politics, he joined in the more liberal views of Canning, Palmerston, and Huskisson. Since the dissolution of Lord Liverpool's Government in 1827 he uniformly supported all the great measures of reform and progress, many of which he assisted to carry to a successful issue in the House of Peers. The late Earl was a governor of the Charter-house, a trustee of the National Gallery, a D.C.L. of Oxford (1839), and a Fellow of the Royal Society. He married, Sept. 1, 1814, Lady Sarah Albion Louisa Hobart, only daughter of Robert fourth Earl of Buckinghamshire, by whom (who survives her husband) he leaves issue an only son, Viscount Gederich, M.P. for the West Riding of Yorkshire; who now goes up to the House of Lords.

A BALL was held at Willis's Rooms, a few evenings since, in aid of the Iron Hardware and Metal Trades' Pension Society. This institution was established in 1843, since which 113 pensioners have been elected, and there are now 71 persons receiving pensions amounting to £1,335 per annum. The ball was highly successful.

M. MONTELEMBERT has had two silver statuettes made, representing Demosthenes and Cicero, intending to present them to the two counsel who conducted his defence in the late trial.

SEVERAL ACCIDENTS from the incautious use of fire-arms are recorded this week, and we suppose will have to be recorded over and over again, spite of all warning. Crinoline, too, has been the death of another lady, a Frenchwoman, whose clothes caught fire, while she was arranging her hair at a chimney glass.

THE FIELD LANE REFUGE.—Nearly £7,000 has been contributed to the Field Lane Refuge for the Homeless, since attention was called to the subject, with the promise of annual subscriptions of £250. With part of this money new buildings are to be erected; and when they are finished the committee hope that the following advantages will be secured to the homeless poor:—75,000 nights' lodgings during the year for men and boys, who will receive 148,000 8-oz. loaves of bread. 128,592 nights' lodgings for homeless young women and girls, who will receive 36,500 8-oz. loaves of bread and coffee, at the discretion of the managers. Accommodation will be provided for 20 young women taken from the streets after their work is over, for which they will pay a small sum weekly. 40 girls a lodging-home similar in character. 400 ragged children will receive daily instruction, under an efficient master and mistresses. 100 boys employed during the day will receive elementary instruction two evenings in each week. 50 boys, under paid masters, will be provided with materials, and taught to repair their clothes and boots. 200 girls and 50 mothers be taught to sew, cut out garments, and supplied with materials to repair the clothing belonging to their families. A room for Bible classes, at which 60 voluntary teachers attend to give instruction on Friday evenings and three times on Sundays to numbers varying from 300 to 500. A ragged church-service on Sunday morning, attended by a congregation varying from 150 to 300. 112 prizes given to boys and girls who keep the places obtained through the school, with good character for twelve months. 112 prizes of this class were distributed last year by Sir W. Carden, M.P., the Lord Mayor. A penny bank, the gross receipts of which last year amounted to £171. Surely a charity which proposes so much good deserves support.

MR. BRIGHT AND HIS REFORM BILL.

MEETING AT ROYALTY.

THE Rockdale meeting in honour of Mr. Bright took place on Friday (25th ult.). There were 800 persons present—all the room would hold. The Mayor occupied the chair. Mr. Cobden sent a letter of excuse: he has adopted a rigid rule of abstaining from all political meetings for a time. Resolutions of warm welcome were passed, and then Mr. Bright spoke. Having feelingly expressed his pleasure at the kindness done him by his fellow-townsmen, Mr. Bright declared that he had not altered any of his views since he spoke at Birmingham. He unfolded at greater length his views on the rating franchise (a subject on which he has had thousands of letters during the last three months), from which it would appear that he will leave to all who are not rated the liberty of getting rated if they like, as a condition precedent to the suffrage. The main section of his speech was a hostile criticism of the schedules lately published in the "Times," joined with a further enforcement of his own.

His peroration was remarkable for its eloquence and its passion:—

"Now, tell you the people don't care about reform. You don't find 100,000 men assemble on Newhall Hill, in Birmingham; you don't find men assemble in vast multitudes in Lancashire and Yorkshire, and threaten that if the bill be not granted in the course of a week's time they will be on their march to London. Of course not, and I hope nothing of the kind will come, for I have nothing of the kind to be necessary; but the fact that they stand us with the absence of this is a proof that they are, however unconscious of it, influenced by the notion, and, in fact, by the knowledge, that no great thing is ever wrested from the Government of this country by the people, except it be at the point of violent action. We are like subjects contending with a conqueror; like the Irish Catholics contending with the invading and subjugating Protestant; like the Lombard, if it be so, contending with the Austrian. What we want is, not that you should transfer great political power from the great landowners to great merchants or great manufacturers, or to the owners of great factories; but that, equally through all parts of the kingdom, all interests, all opinions, all wishes, should affect the Legislature—that members who sit in Parliament should feel that they are not the members of any section, but of the great body of the people; and you would find that as opinion grew and consolidated itself throughout the nation, it would act gently, steadily, omnipotently on the House of Commons. Instead of our having to contend with our rulers as if they were a foreign conqueror for every change, we wish to find one sound animating the Parliament and the people; the Crown and the Government would be stronger and more honoured, and the people would be happier and more contented. Now, I ask you, is it to be deemed a heresy to hold these opinions and to preach this doctrine? Is it not rather to follow the labours of our fathers and to complete their work? Am I to be charged with setting class against class when I wish to break down the wall of partition by which classes are created, and to make all Englishmen brethren before the law and in the eye of the Constitution of their country? What have been the objects of my political life—twenty years of political life? You, my townsmen, know it perfectly well. I call you as witnesses on my behalf. I have laboured with an earnest and successful hand—with Villiers, and Cobden, and G. S. Wilson, and George Wilson, and many others whom I cannot mention, but who live, and who ever will live, in my remembrance. I laboured with them to give the people their daily bread, and now twenty millions' worth of food finds its way every year to your shores, which but fourteen years ago you were not allowed to speak of without being charged with treason to your master class. I laboured with earnest men to strike the stamp from newspapers, and to establish a free press, and I am told that since the abolition of that stamp 300 cheap newspapers have sprung into life, conveying information on every topic every day to almost every house in the kingdom. I have striven, but I grieve to say without success, that the precious earnings of the people and their still more precious blood might not be squandered by guilty statesmen in guilty wars, and now—consistently, as I believe, with all the past—I ask for my countrymen that which is the promise of their Constitution—that they shall have a fair and full representation in the House of Commons. It is a just demand. I ask you—I ask all my countrymen to speak for it with no faltering, with no uncertain voice. Speak, and you will be listened to. Ask in tones that cannot be misunderstood, and that which you ask will certainly be granted. If you come of a great ancestry, as your historians say you do, do not disgrace it now; and if you are, as you boast yourselves, the heirs of freedom, rise, I beseech you, and take possession of your heritage."

This appeal was interrupted and closed by a great deal of cheering. Resolutions were adopted pledging the meeting to support Mr. Bright.

REFORM "CONFERENCE" AT MANCHESTER.

There was a Reform Conference at Manchester on Tuesday afternoon, and "a conference" of a respectable character. Mr. George Wilson was in the chair, and the presence of Mr. Bright indicated the opportunity for a postscript speech to the series he has already made.

At this Conference, a resolution was adopted, approving of Mr. Bright's measure. Speeches were made in defence of Mr. Bright's views by Mr. Robertson Gladstone, Mr. H. Ashworth, Mr. Barnes, the Mayor of Salford, and the Chairman. In reply, Mr. Bright proceeded still further to explain and defend the changes he proposes to make, particularly as these changes affect the redistribution of members. He also offered some further observations on the House of Lords and the fears of the landed interest.

Imperial Parliament.

OPENING OF THE SESSION.

THE third session of the present Parliament was opened on Thursday by her Majesty in person, with all the pomp, pride, and circumstance usual on such occasions. The morning was one of the finest we have had this season; vast crowds lined her Majesty's route from Buckingham Palace to the House of Lords, and greeted her with a continued fire of cheers; in which her Majesty was congratulated on "a recent event" as explicitly as might be. The Queen was received at the Palace at Westminster by the Lord Chancellor and other Ministers of the Upper House. Having robed, her Majesty was conducted with the usual formalities to the throne. Meanwhile, the Commons had assembled, or a few of them; and having appeared at the bar of the House of Lords with their Speaker, pursuant to the summons of the Black Rod, her Majesty read

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

In recurring, at the usual season, to the advice of my Parliament, I am happy to think that, in the internal state of the country, there is nothing to excite disquietude, and much to call for satisfaction and thankfulness. Pauperism and crime have considerably diminished during the past year; and a spirit of general contentment prevails.

The blessing of the Almighty on the valour of my troops in India, and on the skill of their commanders, has enabled me to inflict signal chastisement upon those who are still in arms against my authority, whenever they have ventured to encounter my forces; and I trust that, at no distant period, I may be able to announce to you the complete pacification of that great empire, and to devote my attention to the improvement of its condition, and to the obliteration of all traces of the present unhappy conflict.

On assuming, by your advice, the direct government of that portion of my dominions, I deemed it proper to make known by proclamation the principles by which it was my intention to be guided, and the clemency which I was disposed to show towards those who might have been seduced into revolt, but who might be willing to return to their allegiance. I have directed that a copy of that Proclamation should be laid before you.

I receive from all Foreign Powers assurances of their friendly feelings. To cultivate and confirm those feelings, to maintain inviolate the faith of Public Treaties, and to contribute, as far as my influence can extend, to the preservation of the general peace, are the objects of my unceasing solicitude.

I have concluded, with the Sovereigns who were parties to the Treaty of Paris of 1856, a convention relative to the organisation of the Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia. These Rouman provinces are now proceeding to establish, under its provisions, their new form of Government.

A treaty of commerce, which I have concluded with the Emperor of Russia, and which will be laid before you, is a satisfactory indication of the complete re-establishment of those amicable relations, which,

until their late unfortunate interruption, had long subsisted between us, to the advantage of our respective dominions.

The measures which, in concert with my ally the Emperor of the French, I thought it necessary to take upon the coast of China, have resulted in a Treaty, by which further effusion of blood has been prevented, and which holds out the prospect of greatly-increased intercourse with that extensive and densely-peopled empire.

Another treaty, into which I have entered with the Emperor of Japan, opens a fresh field for commercial enterprise in a populous and highly civilised country, which has hitherto been jealously guarded against the intrusion of foreigners. As soon as the ratifications of these treaties shall have been exchanged, they will be laid before you.

I have great satisfaction in announcing to you that the Emperor of the French has abolished a system of negro emigration from the East Coast of Africa, against which, as unavoidably tending, however guarded, to the encouragement of the slave trade, my Government has never ceased to address to his Imperial Majesty its most earnest, but friendly representations. This wise act on the part of his Imperial Majesty induces me to hope that negotiations, now in progress at Paris, may tend to the total abandonment of the system, and to the substitution of a duly regulated supply of substantially free labour.

The state of the Republic of Mexico, distracted by civil war, has induced me to carry forbearance to its utmost limits, in regard to wrongs and indignities to which British residents have been subjected, at the hands of the two contending parties. They have at length been carried to such an extent that I have been compelled to give instructions to the Commander of my Naval Forces in those seas to demand, and if necessary to enforce, due reparation.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

I have directed that the estimates for the ensuing year shall be submitted to you. They have been framed with a due regard to economy and to the efficiency of the public service.

The universal introduction of steam-power into naval warfare will render necessary a temporary increase of expenditure in providing for the reconstruction of the British navy; but I am persuaded that you will cheerfully vote whatever sums you may find to be requisite, for an object of such vital importance as the maintenance of the maritime power of the country.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Your labours have, in recent Sessions, been usefully directed to various measures of legal and social improvement. In the belief that further measures of a similar character may be wisely and beneficially introduced, I have desired that Bills may be submitted to you without delay, for assimilating and amending the laws relating to Bankruptcy and Insolvency; for bringing together into one set of Statutes, in a classified form and with such modifications as experience will suggest to you, the laws relating to crimes and offences in England and Ireland, for enabling the owners of land in England to obtain for themselves an indefeasible title to their estates and interests, and for registering such titles with simplicity and security.

Your attention will be called to the state of the laws which regulate the representation of the people in Parliament, and I cannot doubt that that you will give to this great subject a degree of calm and impartial consideration, proportioned to the magnitude of the interests involved in the result of your discussions.

These, and other propositions for the amendment of the laws, which will be brought under your notice, as the progress of public business will permit, I commend to the exercise of your deliberate judgment; and I earnestly pray that your counsels may be so guided as to ensure the stability of the throne, the maintenance and improvement of our institutions, and the general welfare and happiness of my people.

At the close of the proceedings, her Majesty returned to the palace; the Speaker and members of the Commons retired from the bar; and their Lordships adjourned to five o'clock. The House of Commons, on re-assembling, adjourned their sitting to four o'clock.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On the re-assembling of the House of Lords on Thursday, Lord WILCHESTER moved the address to her Majesty, reviewing the principal topics of the Queen's Speech. Lord RAVENSWORTH seconded the address.

Lord GRANVILLE touched upon certain omitted topics in her Majesty's Speech. Nothing had been said about the Ionian Islands, or about the recent difficulties with the United States, because there was nothing pleasant to be said of either. Lord Granville then discussed the Italian question; expressing a hope that Sardinia would not desert the policy which had raised her to her present position in the councils of Europe, and that her Majesty's Government had not bound themselves in any way to any one of the parties, except so far as the interests and honour of the country were concerned. As to the question of Reform, any measure which duly consulted the interests of the country would encounter no factious opposition.

Lord DERBY went over the same grounds; remarking, with regard to the Ionian Islands, that it was not with the intention of superseding Sir James Young that Mr. Gladstone had been appointed, but the truth was that for some time past the Government of the Islands had come to a dead lock. Under these circumstances Mr. Gladstone had consented to launch the necessary reforms, and would only remain until his successor would relieve him. The Earl then proceeded to declare that as regarded the present position of affairs in Europe, the Government had entered into no hampering engagement with any Power; moreover, there was no difficulty in the general position that diplomacy might not smooth away. He expressed a strong doubt whether the Emperor of the French would enter upon so dangerous a game as war at the present time and under the present circumstances; but, if war should break out, the Government of this country was bound by no engagement to take sides with any party.

Lord GREY expressed his agreement with the foreign policy enunciated by Lord Derby; and observed that our own safety lay in keeping a large number of sailors and officers about and prepared by training for war.

Lord BROUGHAM said a few words in deprecation of war by Sardinia on the pretence of Italian liberation, but really to enlarge her own kingdom. The Address was then agreed to, and the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In the House of Commons the Address to her Majesty was moved by Mr. THURSDAY, and seconded by Mr. BELCHOFF.

Lord PALMERSTON then rose, and passing lightly over the earlier paragraphs of the Royal Speech, came suddenly upon foreign politics. He said, that though Austria's title to her Italian provinces was guaranteed by treaty, and therefore was not lightly to be infringed; still she did not stand upon the same ground of right when she went beyond the treaty, and occupied provinces not belonging to her. He hoped that such an exceptional state of things would cease, that the Papal States would be evacuated by the French as well as the Austrian troops, and that the reform of abuses in these States would remove the only pretext for their occupation. He therefore earnestly deprecated the war, respecting which so many rumours were abroad. His Lordship then noticed briefly the measures adopted by the Government towards Mexico, observing that the Spanish American States were prone to obey no laws but those of passion and caprice. With regard to the reform of the representation, he concluded, he said, that the passage in the Speech meant that her Majesty's Government had a bill prepared which they would introduce without delay, and he thought this the proper course; that it was a question which properly belonged to the responsible Government of the country.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied that Lord Palmerston was quite right in supposing that a measure was prepared, but he would be disappointed if he supposed that it would be brought forward before the urgent business of the country was put in proper train. He had no wish to conceal from the House the opinion of the Government that the state of affairs abroad was critical. But an European war was not probable. The cause of this uneasy state of things arose from the occupation of Central Italy by the armies of foreign Powers, and the mutual jealousies of France and Austria. The British Government had pressed not only upon those two Powers, but upon the Courts of Turin, Berlin, and St. Petersburg, the expediency of removing the causes of public discontent.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL thought Mr. Disraeli's explanation unsatisfactory and alarming. Liberty in Italy was not to be promoted by such an aggression as was now apprehended, which would shake men's confidence in the treaties upon which the peace of Europe was founded. On the subject of the promised Reform Bill, he considered the declaration of Mr. Disraeli as vague, and professed his inability to discover any excuse for delay in the measure.

Sir J. PAKINGTON made a few remarks in reply to Lord J. Russell, and the motion was agreed to.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. NO. 85.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT—GLAD OR SORRY.

SOME are sorry, but many are glad, that Parliament has once more assembled. The officers of the House of Commons are not glad. Time was when the meeting of Parliament set running into their pockets an auriferous current of fees; then messengers got their seven or eight hundred a year; but that golden age has long since passed away. Some years ago all the functionaries of Parliament had to commute their fees for salaries—salaries handsome enough, and bearing proportion to their former fees; but these old people have for the most part died off, and their successors are not now overpaid; and the salaries being fixed, the return of the session brings to them nothing new but arduous labour. Nevertheless they are, on the whole, not in an unenviable position; for have they not six months' holiday in every year? Labour, sharp enough while it lasts; but long rest to look forward to. What would we, who have to "tug at life's labouring oar," all the year round, give for half such a vacation? The Government, too, can hardly be expected exuberantly to rejoice at the meeting of the House. In the vacation, if the members can keep from quarrelling amongst themselves, all goes on smoothly enough; but the session comes, and then a long farewell to all comfort. Night after night must they sit on their benches, to encounter the sharp shot of hostile criticism, and to be badgered and bated, or at best to be bored, by their enemies, and sometimes even by their friends. Everybody "wants to know" what has been doing during the vacation, and why it has been done. Mr. Wyse is wise upon all diplomatic matters, and wants to know at least a dozen different things. Every officer—naval and military—has employed his leisure during the recess in posting himself up, and now comes up with a formidable list of questions touching promotions, neglected merit, and sundry other matters, some of them exceedingly inconvenient. The *ex-dé-ant* Chancellors of Exchequer and Financial Secretaries have a host of memoranda on money matters jotted down about which they want to know. While the Irish members are all "full to the bung" with impertinent questions. Not to mention the host of adverse motions—motions for inquiry, for committees, for commissions—which must be met, or ingeniously delayed—stayed off, and at last shuffl'd away. No Government, depend upon it, is over-fond of parliamentary institutions. Abstractedly they approve of them, of course, but in practice they would be glad to escape them.

DISRAELI GLAD.

In the present Government, however, there is one man who is an exception to this rule. Our Chancellor of the Exchequer, we venture to say, is glad to find himself once more in the House of Commons. He won his political renown in the House, and he loves it. Neither inglorious ease, nor the dull routine of the desk could satisfy him; and to be in office, and have no parliamentary battles to fight, would not be at all agreeable to his taste. Nature never meant him for the slow duties of the desk. He is a political Bedouin, who would rather die in a foray than live quietly in his own house, or toil in secret in his turret. He loves the wordy war, in which he knows he is a master, and is never so happy as when he stands at the table, his foes before him, honourable members rushing in at the intimation that Disraeli is up, or cheering him on in full cry as he hurls his darts at the noble lords and right honourable gentlemen opposite. But as a drawback to his pleasure just now, he is unpleasantly hampered by the circumstances of his position. He is in office, but, alas! in a minority, and must necessarily be exceedingly cautious; more cautious than he was even last session, for then he had the aid of Whigs to thrash, though he was obliged to coquette with the Radicals; but this session matters have assumed a somewhat different phase, for it is not at all unlikely that this year he will have to look to the Whigs for help against the Radicals. It is a difficult position, especially for Disraeli. He must not exasperate Bright and his friends, whom he may possibly want to assist him, if the Whigs should attempt a *coup d'état*, nor must he recklessly attack the Whigs, whose aid he may possibly require to stem the tide of democracy, which has set in from the Radical quarter; and all these constitutional bits, and straps, and cruppers, don't at all suit our Arab of the desert, we may be sure. Still, our Chancellor's position is a proud one, if not so pleasant as it might be. There he stands—he, a Jew by birth—England's Chancellor of the Exchequer, and leader of the British House of Commons; one more instance of the triumph of the Caucasian race to be added to the long list which he drew out in his "Coningsby" some years ago. True, he is not loved by the party which he leads, and he knows it; but he also knows that it cannot do without him, and that if he is not loved he is feared. And we have not read Disraeli's character aright, if this does not please him more than being loved. And we think we have seen indications of this sometimes in the curl of his lip, and an occasional flash or momentary sparkle of his generally veiled and inscrutable eyes. A singular person is our Chancellor, reminding us at times of some of Byron's heroes.

AND THE MEMBERS GENERALLY.

Of course all the other members are glad enough that they are once more called together (excepting, it may be, some of the old stagers, who have long since become hardened by usage into indifference), for what is a member of parliament in the vacation more than another man?—very little. He is jostled in the streets, unrecognised on "Change," and, excepting when on the strength of his M.P., he is invited to take the chair at a local meeting, or to preside over a Mechanics' Institute, he is unnoticed and unknown. But when Parliament is sitting, he feels that he is of some importance. Then he is somebody. He marches up the members' private staircase. The obsequious policeman recognises him with a touch of the hat. He strides with conscious pride across the lobby, he is greeted by the "whips" in waiting. He enters the sacred portals, no man hindering him, and stands on the floor of the House on a level with high state officials, noble lords and high-born gentlemen. He can question the Chancellor or First Lords. He is canvassed and coquetted with. He can help to defeat or carry measures. He can make or unmake governments. In short, he now feels that he is really a member of the legislative council of that mighty nation on which the sun never sets, &c. What wonder, then, that your member of parliament is delighted when he sees in the "Gazette" that parliament is once more to "meet for despatch of business."

CHANGES MADE.

We shall have not a few new faces in Parliament this session—seven in all, we reckon. And we shall miss a corresponding number of old ones. Miss!—No, not miss—for not one of those who are gone was of sufficient importance to be missed. Very few men when they die are really missed there. A passing remark like Justice Shallow's, "Certain, 'tis certain: very sure: death, as the Psalmist saith, is certain to all: all shall die. 'Twas a good joke of Bullock's at Stamford fair"—and the tide rolls on. The following are the new men—Major Charles Morgan for Brecknock, in the room of Sir Joseph Bailey, deceased; the Honourable W. J. Monson, son of Lord Monson, for Reigate, instead of Sir Henry Rawlinson, who is elected to the Indian Council; Mr. Bazley for Manchester, vice Sir John Potter, dead; Mr. Samuel Trehawe Kekewich, for South Devon, instead of Sir John Yarde Buller, gone to the House of Lords; Mr. William Egerton for Cheshire, in room of his father, Mr. Tatton Egerton, resigned; Mr. Guildford James Hillier Onslow for Guildford, instead of Mr. Ross Donnelly Mangles, elected to the Indian Council; and the Honourable C. S. Bateman Hanbury for Leominster, instead of Mr. J. P. Willoughby, elected to the Indian Council. Lord William Graham, who succeeds Mr. Booker Blakemore, deceased, for Herefordshire, is an old member restored—he sat for Grantham in the last Parliament. These are the changes since last session—whether they are improvements, remains to be seen. As far as we know, there is nothing remarkable in any of the new men. Mr. Bazley is certainly a better man than Sir John Potter—but what the rest are we must wait to know. There may be some gems amongst these men, which have hitherto blushed unseen—some genius which has long wanted opportunity to surprise the world—Who can tell?

CHANGES TO COME.

As Mr. Townsend has not satisfied his creditors to the full amount, nor is likely to do so, at the expiration of 12 months from the time when he was made a bankrupt, the commissioners will certify the bankruptcy to the Speaker, and the election will be declared void. The 12 months must have nearly, if they have not quite, expired. There will, therefore, be a change at Greenwich, and it is said that Mr. Alderman Salomons, who has so long hovered about the door of the House (literally hovered, for he was as constant an attendant as many of the members), is to be elected without opposition. There will also be a change for the West Riding; for Prosperity Robinson has laid aside his earl's power and coronet, and vanished, and Lord Goderich is now Earl of Ripon. The late Earl had arrived at the ripe age of 76. The present Earl, if he outlives Earl de Grey, will most likely be a double earl, for he is presumptive heir to that earldom. Earl de Grey is 77 years old. The principal part of the estates, however, will not go with the earldom, but with the barony of Lucas, which descends to Earl de Grey's eldest daughter, the widow of the late Earl Cowper. Lord Goderich, then, is lost to the House of Commons. His career there is finished at the early age of 32. He is, or was, a radical lord. "The most difficult animal," Cockfield used to say, "that he ever had to deal with." "I can beat," we have heard that wily gentleman say, "anybody but a radical lord; but the people like a radical lord." We rather think, however, that his Lordship's Radicalism has been on the wane for some time past, and that it will now quietly resolve itself into moderate Whiggism. Radicalism seldom flourishes under an earl's coronet and in the atmosphere of the House of Peers. The late Earl was a man of moderately good abilities, and the same may be said of his son. Nevertheless, he did the State some service by pressing upon the attention of the late Government the question of competitive examination. Mr. Gladstone vacates the University of Oxford because he has been appointed to the post of Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands; but it is understood that he will be re-elected without opposition. Mr. Whiteside is to succeed Mr. G. A. Hamilton as member for Dublin University—causing, by this preferment, a vacancy for Enniskillen; and East Worcestershire will have to seek a new member, as Mr. George Rushout succeeds his uncle, Lord Northwick, and goes to the Peers.

SIR C. E. TREVELYAN, K.C.B.

SIR CHARLES EDWARD TREVELYAN, K.C.B., the able civilian and administrator, who is about to proceed forthwith to Madras as successor to Lord Harris, is the fourth son of the late Venerable Archdeacon Trevelyan, and cousin of Sir Walter C. Trevelyan, Bart., of Nettlecombe, near Taunton. He was born in 1807, and was educated at the Charter House and at Haileybury College. His public career may be said to have commenced on the 21st of October, 1826 (says a writer in the "Homeward Mail"), when he arrived in Bengal as a writer on the establishment of that Presidency. He had already distinguished himself at Haileybury, and, amongst other subjects, had not neglected the study of the Oriental languages, and he found the benefit of this discipline on reaching India. Landing at Bombay, he spent a few weeks there and at Poona, and then started overland for Madras. This journey gave him the opportunity of making himself acquainted with many parts of the two minor Presidencies. Having passed the requisite examination at Calcutta, he was appointed, on the 4th of January, 1827, assistant to Sir C. Metcalfe, then Commissioner at Delhi. That distinguished man soon recognised the ability of the young civilian, and a few months after he had joined intrusted him with a most important duty in the investigation of a disputed claim to territory on the frontiers of Bikaner. Having discharged this duty to the satisfaction of his chief, Mr. Trevelyan was frequently detached on high political employment. He was for some time in charge of the Rajah of Bhurtpore, Madhu Singh, a very promising youth, who died at an early age. A short anecdote will elucidate the character of the Bhurtpore chiefs. Mr. Trevelyan was desirous that the young Rajah's education should be properly cared for, and was anxious he should learn Persian. To this the chiefs objected. "We have always been at feud with the Delhi people," said they, "and have beaten them often. We do not care for their language, and would rather our young Rajah did not waste his time upon it." "Well, then," it was urged, "let him learn English." To this suggestion they assented very readily. "The English," said they, "have beaten us; our Rajah shall learn their language."

From Bhurtpore, Mr. Trevelyan went to the important post of Kotah Boondee, being still assistant to the resident at Delhi, a post which he filled under various designations for five years. He did not quit Delhi without leaving a lasting memorial of his labours. The city was increasing in spite of high prices and deficient supplies, and the lower classes suffered much from the exorbitant house-rents demanded of them. Mr. Trevelyan, in order to remedy this, applied for 300 bheegahs or acres of waste land, and sold the leases, on certain building conditions, at low rates to the ryots. From his own funds he contributed enough to secure a fine broad street through the centre of the new quarter, and thus, to the great benefit of the inhabitants, arose Trevelyanpur.

In December, 1831, Mr. Trevelyan was appointed Deputy-Secretary to Government in the Overland Political Department. In April, 1836, he was nominated Secretary to the Sudder Board of Revenue, which office he held until January, 1838, when he proceeded to Europe on furlough; and having obtained a high appointment under the Crown at home, resigned the Indian service in November, 1842. As Assistant-Secretary to the Treasury, he has shown abilities which have called forth the admiration of his political opponents, and even of that fierce censor *morum* the "Times." It is well known that the throwing open of the civil service to merit, and the establishment of the system of competitive examination, are matters mainly attributable to his persevering energy. But of his eminent public services in this country it is less our province, and indeed less requisite to speak, as they are so widely known and so generally appreciated. Though much occupied with his arduous duties at the Treasury, he has always kept up his acquaintance with Indian affairs; his views on matters connected with India have been read by the public with marked attention; and his present nomination to the important government of Madras has been received with general approbation.

Sir Charles E. Trevelyan was made a K.C.B. (Civil Division) in 1848; he married in 1834 Hannah, daughter of Zachary Macaulay, Esq., and cousin of Lord Macaulay.

INAUGURATION OF THE WELLINGTON COLLEGE.

THE bleak, inhospitable-looking moor, on which the Wellington College has unfortunately been erected, wore, on Saturday, such a busy aspect as was almost sufficient to give an air of animation even to a spot so desolate and cold: for on Saturday the college was inaugurated by the Queen. The precise *locale* of the building is not very easy to describe, beyond saying that it is situated near the valley of the Black-water, apparently many miles from any village, though in reality about three from Sandhurst, and four from Farnborough station. The country, for a considerable extent round the building, is of the same kind of waste heath land as that on which the camp at Aldershot is situated, with the difference that the college land seems even poorer and more barren. The selection of a spot so cheerless, is only to be accounted for by the fact that the twelve acres of land on which the college and its outbuildings stand were presented to the Wellington Memorial Fund gratuitously, though clogged with the condition that all the bricks used in the construction of the buildings should be obtained from the donor's brickfields. This arrangement, and the subsequent purchase by the governors of the college of 120 additional acres of moorland, must have quite repaid the gentleman who so generously gave the first twelve acres. It is now a matter of great though useless regret that the governors ever accepted such an offer, and were led to erect a national memorial on ground so utterly bleak and barren in appearance, and the means of access to which by rail are so circuitous that

the journey occupies nearly two hours. What by no means tends to lessen the dissatisfaction with which the site is regarded is the fact that, after the arrangement for accepting the twelve acres was entered into, a gentleman offered to convey to the commissioners a small but beautifully situated estate at Windsor. This generous offer, however, came too late, and unfortunately could not be accepted.

The whole extent of ground belonging to the college is 132 acres. All the land not occupied by the buildings will (in course of time) be converted into a gymnasium, playground, shrubbery, and parade; moreover, there is to be a large artificial lake on the north side of the building. It is to be upwards of 20 acres in extent; but in its formation, if we may judge from the aspect of the ground, the contractors will be wonderfully assisted by the efforts of nature.

The college itself may be described as a handsome edifice, in the decorated Italian or mixed style. The whole building forms externally one large quadrangle, 260 feet long by 151 wide, the east and west sides of which are the wings or main portions of the whole. The cross buildings, which complete the quadrangle at top and bottom are the head master's and secretary's house on the north-east, and the main entrance-hall on the south-west end. The large courtyard which is thus enclosed inside these buildings is subdivided into two quadrangles by the intersection of the school for the junior boys. Such, in brief, is the ground plan. The two main wings are, from their height and number of windows, especially imposing. They are faced with orange and purple bricks, in the style known among builders as gauge-work, and alternating with courses of white masonry. The effect of all this is warm and cosy-looking. Each wing is divided in the centre by a wide and lofty tower, 25 feet by 120 high. The view from the upper storeys of these towers, where are placed the tanks which supply high pressure fire mains on every floor and landing, is as extensive as could well be desired. From the north side you overlook Wokingham and Windsor; the latter distinctly visible, though some twelve miles distant. The south faces immediately on that part of Hampshire known as the Hartford Bridge Flats; but over the hills which bound it can be gained a view of an immense extent of country, from Bearwood on one side to Strathfieldsaye upon the other. The towers, however, are not the principal entrances. These are situated in the centre of the cross buildings—in the north-east and south-west ends, the chief one of all being through the latter, under a handsome clock-tower dominating the entrance-hall. From this point of view the appearance of the edifice is striking, and when entirely finished, and the niches which adorn the wings at either end are filled in with appropriate statues, the approach will be in every respect worthy of the college and the hero in whose honour it is reared.

The internal subdivisions of the building maintain the favourable impression produced by the exterior. The rooms are spacious, lofty, well ventilated, and well placed; the play, school, dining, and domestic rooms being on the ground floor, and all the dormitories and dwelling-rooms exclusively confined to the upper portions. This, however, is all that can be said of them, for the fittings are of the roughest and poorest description. The brick walls are merely whitewashed over. The bedrooms, with their stone floors, seem cold and meanly fitted, and the whole interior more reminds the visitor of a barrack or workhouse than a tolerably well-endowed college, and one for the erection and maintenance of which the nation subscribed nearly £160,000.

The south entrance of the building leads at once to the great dining-hall, a fine room 88 feet long by 28 wide, and 33 high, and from which the visitor passes to the south or entrance-hall quadrangle, round the four sides of which is a cloistered arcade, eight feet wide, intended to afford an open-air promenade to the students in bad weather. In the walls of this arcade are placed 24 niches, reserved for the busts of the more distinguished of our heroes who have died in the service of their country, or who in future years may add additional lustre to the fame of English arms in the conduct of wars as yet unthought of. The basement rooms round this quadrangle are kitchens and domestic offices. The apartments round the north, or school-room quadrangle, are the upper class-rooms, play-rooms, and library, with the head master's and secretary's rooms at the north entrance. The dormitories run the whole length of the east and west wings of the building, and are only divided by the central tower, which gives access to them on either side. Each boy has his own distinct sleeping-room, which is 11 feet long by 8 wide, and 14 high, and the plan of the college is so contrived that to every boy's room is a large window looking out upon the heath. The towers which lead to these sleeping-rooms are made useful as well as ornamental, and are partly used as the ventilating shafts for the dormitories, through which they keep a constant flow of pure air, while foul air shafts provide for carrying off the vitiated atmosphere from below. In order to make this ventilation as perfect as possible, the partitions which divide each boy's room are not carried up to more than within four feet of the ceiling, so that the fresh air circulates freely along the whole length of the dormitory from north to south. There are two storeys of such dormitories on the east and west sides; but the accommodation in both is the same, and with both wings a corridor of communication enables the head master to pass through them at any time he chooses. Sixty-four sleeping-rooms are on each floor, and two floors in each wing, which gives a total number of 256 boys' rooms, but as it is intended that there shall never be more than 240 students in the college, the sixteen rooms surplus will be occupied by the under-masters and ushers.

So much for the college itself. As our readers are aware, it is founded for the education of the orphan sons of officers of her Majesty's Army and Navy. The English public in all parts of the world contributed to the foundation of this institution, for it was generally felt that no more appropriate monument could be raised to the memory of the illustrious Duke than one which, exclusive of its external appearance and architectural merit, should serve the higher purpose of giving a nearly gratuitous education to the orphans of that profession of which he was himself the head and brightest ornament. The total amount of subscriptions received, including interest on sums invested, and donations of £25,000 from the Patriotic Fund, and £3,000 from Sir J. Bailey, M.P., was £150,000. Of this sum £105,000 has been invested on mortgage at £4 per cent., yielding an annual income of no less than £4,200. The lowest tender for the erection of the college was barely under £10,000, including the principal fixtures and fittings; but, adding to this amount the sums for the purchase of the 120 acres, for the erection of a chapel and infirmary, boilers and steam machinery, kitchen apparatus, and for insuring an abundant supply of pure water, and the total outlay will not probably be less than £55,000.

The chapel, however, is postponed for the present, and a temporary one has been fitted up in the south half of the upper east dormitory.

About seventy boys are already in the college, all of whom wear its uniform—a simple, but rather German, half-military dress. The first 100 boys will be admitted on the following terms:—

FOUNDATIONS (I.E., ORPHANS).

"First Class.—Twenty boys to pay £10 a year each, to be nominated by the governors; eighteen boys to pay £10 a year each, to be nominated by the commissioners of the Patriotic Fund; three boys to pay £10 a year each, to be nominated by Sir J. Bailey, M.P."

"Second Class.—Twenty boys to pay £15 a year each, to be nominated by the governors."

"Third Class.—Twenty boys to pay £20 a year each, to be nominated by the governors."

NON-FOUNDATIONS.

"Fourth Class.—Nineteen boys to pay £40 a year each, to be nominated by the governors."

Boys not orphans, the sons of officers serving in the army, will be admitted in this latter class.

The subjects of instruction given to the boys will include what is usually understood by a good English and classical education, with those branches of scientific knowledge which have a special application to the arts, commerce, and industry of the country, and the modern languages. The religious worship and teaching are, of course, to be according to the doctrine and principles of the Church of England; but attendance on such worship or teaching will not be required of boys whose guardians may object on the ground of religious dissent.

Thus, then, the annual income of the college, including the payments to be made by the 100 boys, will be £6,100, which is considered sufficient to provide a suitable staff of masters, and to cover all expenses for 100 boys; as the funds of the college increase the boys admitted will be all placed on the foundation, and the fourth class or non-foundations ultimately abolished.

The ceremonial of Saturday, if such a brief and formal proceeding may be so termed, took place in the Great Hall of the College, which, as it was only able to accommodate about one per cent. of those anxious to be present, caused tickets of admission to be sought after with peculiar eagerness. Nearly all the visitors, however, were from London, and came in special trains by the South-Eastern and South-Western Railways to the temporary station upon the latter line, a short distance from the college. But short as was this distance it was quite sufficient to enable all to appreciate the bleakness of the situation, for wind and drizzly rain was sweeping across the heath with vindictive keenness, and altogether the appearance of things was as cheerless and unpromising as well could be. The Great Hall in which the ceremony took place is a most unpretending apartment, with whitened brick walls and plain oak ceiling. A few flags, with wreaths of laurels, were placed between the windows, and a dais with crimson canopy erected at one end for the Queen. Beyond this no attempt was made at decoration, and the appearance of the room, therefore, was in every way unworthy the occasion. On each side of the dais were seats for the governors and distinguished visitors, while in front of it were placed forms for the boys of the college. Behind these sat the general visitors on sixteen seats, from which, as none were raised, only those favoured few who sat on the front one saw anything at all.

The places in the Great Hall were occupied before twelve o'clock. Among those present were the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Earl and Countess of Derby and Lady Emma Stanley, Lord Cranworth, Lord Gough, Marquis of Salisbury, Earl of Ellenborough, Bishop of Oxford, Lord John Russell, the Chaplain-General, &c. About half-past twelve her Majesty, accompanied by the Prince Consort, the Princess Alice, and Prince Arthur, and escorted by a detachment of the 2nd Life Guards, arrived in a carriage-and-four from Windsor. A guard of honour, furnished by the 1st Staffordshire Militia, received the royal party with the usual ceremonies. Upon alighting at the south front her Majesty was met by the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Wellington, and the other governors of the college, with its head master, the Rev.

W. Benson, M.A. Thus attended, the Royal party at once proceeded to the junior schoolroom, where the boys were still at their tasks, and where she was welcomed with hearty cheers. From this place her Majesty was shown through the various class and school-rooms, and through the dormitories we have already described. About twenty minutes were thus occupied in inspecting the college, at the conclusion of which her Majesty was conducted to the dais in the hall. Prince



SIR CHARLES TREVELYAN, K.C.B., THE NEW GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.
(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN WATKINS.)

Albert stood on the Queen's left, wearing the very plain uniform of a governor of the college. Princess Alice and Prince Arthur stood behind her Majesty on the right.

When all had taken their places, Lord Derby advanced to the foot of the dais, and in the name of the governors read an address, thanking her Majesty for her condescension in laying the first stone of the building, in inaugurating it, and for the support which she had unceasingly bestowed on the undertaking:—

"We are the more grateful for this mark of your Majesty's favour, inasmuch as it has been awarded at a moment of deep personal anxiety, now happily dispelled by an event which has been hailed with heartfelt satisfaction by the whole body of your Majesty's subjects, and on which we trust we may be permitted to offer to your Majesty our respectful and affectionate congratulation."

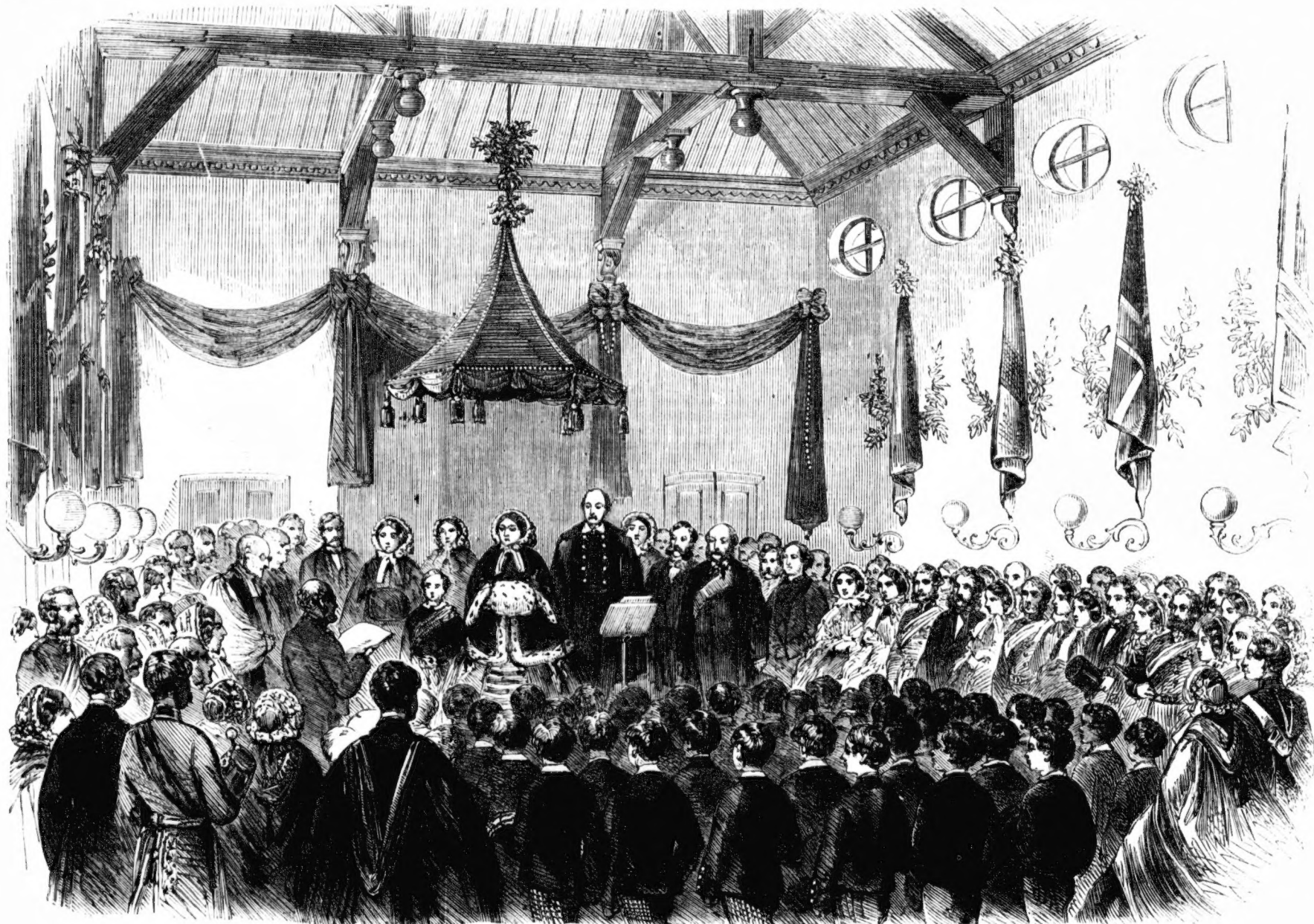
Her Majesty bowed and accepted the address, and received from Mr. Walpole the reply, which she read in a voice distinctly audible in every part of the hall. This reply was as follows:—

"My Lords and Gentlemen,—I thank you for your loyal and dutiful address, and for your congratulations on an event for which, if anything had been wanting to complete my joy and gratitude, it would have been found in the spontaneous expression which has been elicited of the sympathy and affection of my people."

"It gives me sincere pleasure to inaugurate the formal opening of this admirable institution, of which I was glad on a former occasion, at your request, to lay the foundation-stone. From that time to this I have watched its progress with unceasing satisfaction. I have seen how difficulties inseparable from such an undertaking have been gradually overcome, and I hail with thankfulness the completion of a work (a nation's tribute to the memory of one of her greatest men) destined to furnish the means of a religious, moral, and intellectual education of the best description to the children of many deserving officers which they could not otherwise obtain. In the students now before me I am glad to recognise the first-fruits of this benevolent work; and I trust they will, by their steady industry and honourable conduct, their cheerful obedience to those who are set in authority over them, and their behaviour to each other, earn a character for the college worthy of the name it bears."

"I pray that the Divine blessing may ever rest on this institution, and that it may lead all those who may be here educated to imitate, in their firm determination at all times and on all occasions to do their duty in that state of life unto which it may please God to call them, one of the chief characteristics of the Duke of Wellington."

We are told that, save the first paragraph of this reply (which was written by Lord Derby), "it was the joint production of an Honourable and a Right Honourable gentleman," and our readers may see for themselves that one more inelegant in its structure, or more rapid and commonplace in its expressions, was never put into the hands of her Majesty. At the conclusion of the address and reply the Archbishop of Canterbury offered up a brief prayer for the Divine blessing on the efforts of the college. Her Majesty then signed the rules and statutes of the college, and with this act the ceremonial terminated. At the conclusion of the proceedings her Majesty and the Royal family returned to the head master's apartments, where lunch was served. They quitted the college shortly before two o'clock for Windsor.



OPENING OF THE WELLINGTON COLLEGE: LORD DERBY READING THE ADDRESS.



RAMSGATE SANDS.—(BY W. P. FRITH, R.A.—A GROUP FROM THE LARGE ENGRAVING ISSUED BY THE ART UNION OF LONDON.)

RAMSGATE SANDS.

Most decidedly the Art Union of London offers, this year, to its subscribers the cheapest guinea's worth ever recorded. The gambler in fine arts can hedge very safely, for even if he fails to win the prize, he will have presented to him a noble engraving from Frith's well-known picture of "Life at the Sea-side." It is a wonder that the print-sellers of London do not rise in a body and smash the windows of Messrs. Godwin and Pocock. Why, this same print of "Life at the Sea-side" would, if Messrs. Colnaghi & Co. had published it, have been priced at six guineas. That old established firm would have issued elegant cards inviting the nobility and gentry to view the original painting at their rooms. The nobility and gentry would have found the master-piece raised on a green baize platform and lighted up in the most artistic manner. An insinuating assistant would have solicited the honour of writing down my Lord's name as a subscriber. The whole affair would have been very pompous and elegant, and the price charged for the engraving rather startling. But the directors of the Art Union of London are simple sweet-minded gentlemen, contented with a guinea, and much given to decorating the apartments of their fellow-creatures. In a few months' time Mr. Sharpe's engraving will be adding to the magnificence of the British sitting-rooms; the land-ladies of Guilford and Duke Streets will be deliberating whether they should not ask an extra five shillings weekly for their parlours and first floors, so mightily will "Life at the Sea-side" brighten up their faded walls and improve the look of their dingy rooms.

This print should properly have been called "The Sands of Ramsgate," instead of "Life at the Sea-side." Our idea of life anywhere comprehends other things besides sitting on the sea-shore. For instance the chops for breakfast, and the joint for dinner, enter very importantly into our notion of a sea-side existence. Perhaps it would have been better to have christened the engraving "Mornings by the Sea-side." However, we will not make ourselves disagreeable by raising objections. The print is a very beautiful print, and that ends the matter.

To do proper homage to this work of art, we have thought it best, in reproducing it on the wood, to divide the plate into three portions, for, by this method, instead of squeezing up the subject in a confused jumble of little one-inch figures, we can very closely follow the size, touch, expression, and effect of the original.

The portion of the engraving given this week represents a group of highly respectable sea-side visitors, those excellent people who have apartments in the terraces and crescents, and prefer keeping apart from the regular mob of holiday people. They generally congregated on the sands near to the pier. They take their money's worth out of their penny chair. It is a three hours' job with them. They bring their work with them, and finish off half a collar or a length of petticoat before they think of returning home. A volume from the circulating library may be easily "gobbled up" during this sitting. It is to this part of the sands that the wandering minstrels bend their steps. The Italian band circulates its gratuitous programme amongst those well-to-do gentry, and the insinuating money-collector bows gracefully to them as he holds out his silver shell for contributions. The last time we were at Ramsgate a weak-eyed Tyrolean minstrel, accompanied by an accomplished family, was also warbling amidst this fashionable audience. The owner of the performing canaries was likewise dependant on them for his bird-seed and existence. We also noticed a vender of waxed plaster casts, whose lively manner, and agreeable broken English, enabled him to dispose of numberless winged angels, glossy rabbits, and busts of celebrated men. Shell flowers vendors, and distressed maidens with crochet-work, wend their way among the chairs, and tempt to extravagant purchases prudent mammas who like to take back with them to London something to remind them of their trip.

About eleven o'clock a hand-bell is heard to ring violently in the distance, and the elderly gentlemen who up to this time have been winking and dozing in the sunshine, wake up and wriggle in their chairs with incomprehensible liveliness. The fact is, the "Times" newspaper has just arrived at Ramsgate. The newsmen, still ringing his bell with the concentrated energy of a mufin-boy, a dustman, and the town-crier, direct his steps to the very group Mr. Frith has painted. Very soon papa has read the first leader, and perfectly agreeing with everything the writer has put forth, matters that it is a very sensible article, and dives into the second column. During this interim, mammas having nobody to talk with, think it an excellent opportunity for giving the little ones a foot-bath. The Liliputian masters and misses have their little clothes tucked up to their waists, and are allowed to kick about among the rippling waves. Soon the little fat legs grow mottled, and the little fat feet sandy. The dandy-embroidered trousers are sopped through, and tunics and frocks, clean that very morning, are wringing wet, and ready for the laundress.

At the time Mr. Frith painted his picture cavalier-hats were not invented. Young ladies wore "uglies;" which, though useful in cases of weak eyes, are not, as a general rule, becoming. They were selfish things, those "uglies;" hiding the countenance, and interfering with one of man's oldest established prerogatives, the right of looking at a pretty face.

A NEW LOAN of £10,000,000 is said to be proposed by Government to defray the expense of increasing our naval armaments.

AMERICAN PREDESTINATION.—A Western American paper publishes the following:—"I knew an old man who believed that 'what was to be would be.' He lived in a region infested by very savage Indians. He always took his gun with him, but this time he found that some of his family had taken it out. As he would not go without it, his friends tantalised him by saying that there was no danger of the Indians; that he would not die till his time came, anyhow. 'Yes,' says the old fellow, 'but suppose I was to meet an Indian, and his time was come, it wouldn't do not to have my gun.'"

RECORDS OF THE MUTINY.—A great mass of official despatches from India are published in a supplement to the "London Gazette." They refer to endless skirmishing operations against the various rebel parties who hold the field against us, and these operations are invariably commended by the Governor-General as victorious or satisfactory. The despatches are old. They do not come down late enough to be of much interest, and they are by far too numerous to be transferred into the columns of a newspaper.

EXTRAORDINARY FUNERAL IN CONSTANTINOPLE.—The ex-Patriarch Constantinos, Archbishop of Sinai, who died a few days ago, was carried in procession through Constantinople to his last resting-place, in the vaults of the Convent of Baluklu, about half an hour's walk from the city walls. It was the first time that such a ceremony has been allowed, and the authorities even lent some files of soldiers to accompany the cortege. The church dignitaries, decked out in their best paraphernalia, with the chanters, light-bearers, &c., opened the cortege, at the end of which the dead man, in full pontificals, with the tiara on his head and the Bible on his breast, was carried on a chair by six stout porters, who required all their united strength to prevent the crowd from throwing the dead prelate into the mud. The whole reminded one of the entry of King Richard II. into London, as represented at the Princess's Theatre, but in six inches of mud; the public, however, at Constantinople are evidently less particular or more imaginative, for the first remark after the cortege had passed was, "How very pretty!"

MASSACRE OF JEWS.—Some dreadful disturbances have taken place at Folksburg, a town situated on the frontier between Moldavia and Wallachia, and where the central commission of the united principalities is to hold its sittings. A Christian child having been found murdered in a wine-shop kept by a Jew, the populace suspected the Jews in general, attacked them, and killed from fifteen to twenty. An investigation having been instituted by the authorities, a declaration was made that there was no proof against the Jews. It appears that these horrible scenes were preceded by the publication of a pamphlet printed at Bucharest, in the archbishop's palace, and by his orders. In it the most violent language was used: the following are specimen passages:—"A Christian when ill, ought never to call in a Jewish physician, for the Jews poison the Christians." "The Jews have need of Christian blood for their ceremonies of Easter; such at least is the opinion of many ecclesiastics." "Every Christian that kills a Jew may be assured that all his sins will be remitted to him, and that heaven will be his portion after death." The publication of this production caused great scandal, and the government authorities at once issued an order declaring that the archbishop should have to answer for it, and that the pamphlet should be confiscated and burned in the public market-place. But the evil was already done; and now we hear the archbishop is considered by the ignorant multitude as a saint, and his writings are looked on as an inspiration from on high.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1859.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

THIS anxiously-expected document will probably disappoint those who, by long dwelling on the present grave appearances of European politics, have come to think that no language can do them justice but that of excitement. Yet, when we remember the dignity of the speaker, and of the nation addressed, the quiet tone of the Speech seems very appropriate; and a minute examination will show that no topic of real interest has been omitted, however delicately some of them are handled.

The domestic and the Indian paragraphs are matters of course, and excite little emotion one way or the other. The country is even singularly quiet, all things considered; and the public has for some time looked on the Indian struggle as over. It is, of course, satisfactory to be confirmed in this impression from the highest quarter—not the less so when we contemplate the possible demands that may by and by be made on our military resources.

But now comes the paragraph; and far and wide through Europe the first mention of "Foreign Powers" will have been eagerly jumped at. "I receive from all Foreign Powers assurances of their friendly feelings." This marks out our peaceful position so far. The next sentence is pregnant with meaning:—"To cultivate and confirm those feelings, to maintain inviolate the faith of public treaties, and to contribute, as far as my influence can extend, to the preservation of the general peace, are the objects of my unceasing solicitude."

These are words which seem to us to speak very plainly. The Government, we take it, declines to abet any Power in interfering with the established territorial arrangements of Europe, and is using all its influence to avert the dark cloud of war which is now menacing mankind. We need scarcely add that this is the policy which the moderate of all parties have been urging on them, ever since Napoleon's deliberately-threatening language to Hubner shook the markets of the world.

The allusions to the Principalities, to the Russian commercial treaty, to the coercion of China, and the opening of Japan, are all in their different ways highly interesting, and at any other time than the present would provoke ample discussion. But the "high politics" have it all their own way just now, and again we shall find everybody hurrying past what is merely useful, hopeful, and reasonable in its associations. Who cares for trade and commerce when the doings of Emperors are a question? So, we all go on to the African paragraph, where the French-Portuguese affair is indeed ignored; but where its result is announced as being the abolition of the Emperor's negro emigration scheme. If ministers can show that their diplomacy has helped that effect, they will spoil the game of those who have been preparing high indignation for some weeks back against them on the general question.

The increase of the Navy Estimates—clearly marked out as a coming event in the second paragraph addressed to the Commons—will give to the session the only element wanting to make it a stirring one. The whole question of our naval expenditure will come under review; and though there is nothing that the country grudges less, we must have a thorough explanation of the use made of the millions given in bygone years for naval purposes.

That the Reform measure would be the subject of some preparatory note of warning, was obvious. It has a sentence to itself; and, though nothing can be more commonplace in expression, nothing, also, can be more distinct. The Houses are promised "a great subject" for "calm and impartial consideration," which amounts to indicating that a Reform Bill will be one of the main topics of the session. This is all the more satisfactory, because, unquestionably, if the people have made few demonstrations about Reform during the recess, one reason of this has been the universal expectation of a Government measure.

Royal speeches, viewed from any point, are generally disappointing compositions. It is inevitable that they should be so, for eloquence, fancy, &c., are in the nature of things excluded; and a grave conventional decorum *decs* (so to speak) the whole. The present Speech is in these respects neither better nor worse than its predecessors. But, in substance, it cannot be accused of any serious defects. The policy which it shadows forth is liberal and pacific, and independent. There is a proper stress on measures to be forthcoming of social and constitutional reform. There are assurances that we have lost no ally, and are mixing in no new political complications; and if little light is thrown on the uncertainty which hangs over the future of the continent, one thing we take to be made clear enough: that Great Britain is not likely to be dragged into whatever convulsions despotic ambition may be preparing for our less fortunate fellow-creatures abroad.

SAVINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE OF WALES is travelling under the name of "Prince Renbow."

THE ASTRONOMER-ROYAL at the Cape, writing in December, says:—"The comet is still observable by means of a good telescope armed with suitable appliances; and altogether a valuable series of data towards investigating the orbit will be furnished from the Cape."

THE COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH has decided that a tenant can only be rated in respect of that which he beneficially occupies, and that, therefore, the value of the land for sporting purposes must be excluded from the calculation.

AN INCREASE of 3,600 MEN for the NAVY will be proposed in the forthcoming estimates.

A NEW SUSPENSION BRIDGE, recently erected over the Gironde, at Marmande, failed under the usual tests; the masonry-work split in several places. The bridge must be entirely taken down and rebuilt.

THE ENGLISH CATHOLICS are about building a church of their own at Rome.

A LARGE QUANTITY of SALTPETRE was sold by a firm in London to the Sardinian Government last week; and a still larger supply was purchased for the French Government, to be delivered in Piedmont.

MADAME LOUISE BOLLANDER DE LA SANGHE, who has for more than twelve years filled the office of French governess to the children of her Majesty, has just retired.

THE STATEMENT which has gone the round of the daily press, about the visit of the Queen to assist at the christening of her grandchild, in the Prussian capital, is incorrect. But it is expected the Princess Frederick-William of Prussia will come to England sometime in the spring, to visit her parents.

MR. ARTHUR GORDON, who accompanied Mr. Gladstone in the capacity of secretary, has just sent in his resignation, on the ground of a difference of opinion with Mr. Gladstone as to the course he has pursued.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY has proposed to Oxford University to establish a mission in the regions lately discovered by Dr. Livingstone.

AN INSOLVENT, discharged by the Insolvent Court, was committed by the Brompton County Court for a debt not inserted in his schedule. On an application to Mr. Justice Wightman, that Judge said the man was entitled to be discharged. This was effected by applying, at the instance of the Judge, to the Brompton County Court. This is the first decision of the kind.

THE BISHOP of London has issued a commission to inquire into various allegations affecting the character of the Reverend Henry Hampton, minister of St. George's Temorary Church, Holloway.

THE EQUESTRIAN CIRCUS at WARSAW has been destroyed by fire; in a few hours the whole building was reduced to ashes. A number of stars and "learned" dogs perished in the flames. The howls of these poor animals were frightful, but it was impossible to get at them. The horses were saved.

THE WORKMEN employed in the building trades in London are agitating for a reduction in the hours of labour. With this view a large meeting at 11 o'clock 1,000 persons were present—was held last week at Exeter Hall.

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT, in order to prevent any embarrassment to the financial state of the country, is on the point of interfering the creation of any new joint-stock companies for some time to come.

"A WATCH-DOG belonging to David Corsut and Sons, apparently being tired of this world," says the "Montrose Review," "deliberately walked down to the side of the river Brothock, where he coolly leaped in and held his head below the water until he was drowned!"

ONE of the kitchen boilers in the White Swan Inn, Halifax, exploded, with tremendous violence. The boiler was blown to pieces, the windows and furniture much damaged, and three women were severely scalded.

DISASTROUS ACCOUNTS have reached Marseilles of storms in the Black Sea: several English vessels have been damaged. The Russian packet-steamers for Odessa, Dnieper, was completely wrecked.

SIR MATTHEW SAUSE, late Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Bombay, has been promoted to the Chief Justiceship of that Court. The vacant Puisne Judgeship has been conferred on Mr. Arnold, of the Middle Temple and the Home Circuit. Mr. Arnold is the author of a well-known work, "The Law of Marine Insurance."

TWO SHOCKS of EARTHQUAKE were felt at Venice on the 20th. They were both undulatory, and rather severe, having lasted about six seconds each.

MESSRS. POWER AND WEATHERS, members of the Stock Exchange, who lately failed, having paid their creditors in full, have been re-admitted by a unanimous decision of the committee.

AN OFFICER belonging to the 60th Rifles, stationed in garrison, was on Ramsgate pier on Sunday week, when a sudden blast of wind blew him off the pier into the sea. Assistance was promptly rendered, and he was rescued from his perilous position.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES MATTHEWS, after a successful tour through some of the principal towns in Lancashire, will re-appear at the Haymarket Theatre in March. A new comedy, in three acts, by Mr. Stirling Coyne, is in preparation.

THE PROMOTERS of the contemplated Muswell Hill Palace of the People have offered five acres of land to the committee of the Dramatic College.

THE UNDOUBTED NEPHEW of the GREAT JOHN PHILIP CURRAN is at present and has been for sometime an inmate of a workhouse in his native county of Cork. A movement is on foot to collect a sum of money sufficient to keep him independent of public charity for the rest of his life.

A FRENCH PROTESTANT, living at Colmar, has been fined for having lent to a Catholic, his neighbour, a volume from his library, entitled "Doctrine of the Holy Scriptures upon the Worship of Mary," and in which it seems the new dogma of the immaculate conception is assailed as superstitious.

MADAME LACRESSONNIERE, an actress of considerable eminence at the Boulevard theatres, Paris, has just died in the prime of life.

VICE-CHANCELLOR WOOD has decided the question between the directors of the Great Northern Railway and the B shareholders, which has been long litigated, in favour of the latter. The A shareholders are not in future to receive any dividends until the B shareholders be paid six per cent. per annum from December 31st, 1855.

THE ARIEL, French steamer, lately seized seven English fishing boats that were caught fishing in the French oyster beds not far from Carteret.

MR. AUGUSTUS HARRIS commences the management of the Princess's Theatre at the termination of Mr. Keen's leaseholdship. "The Porte St. Martin business," says the "Era," "will be the leading feature under the new management."

THE REMAINS of the LATE HENRY HALLAM were buried on Saturday in the secluded church-yard of Clevedon, on the Bristol Channel. His two gifted sons and his wife had been already buried in the same grave.

THE FIRST STONE of the PROPOSED NATIONAL GALLERY for IRELAND was laid on Saturday afternoon, by his Excellency the Earl of Eglinton on the ground of, and adjoining, the Royal Dublin Society. The weather having been exceedingly inclement all day, the attendance was not very numerous.

A CURIOUS DISCOVERY has just been communicated to the French Academy, viz., that a large kind of fresh water mussel, frequently found in a stream called La Vierte, which rises in the department of the Vosges, and waters a portion of Belgium, produces pearls equal in quality to the Oriental ones. Some of them are not white, but of a mahogany colour, as if they contained iron, which, however, they do not.

THE EXPLOIT of WILLIAM TELL has stimulated a weaver at Spire to try his hand at rifle practice on his young son, on whose head he placed a potato, and brought down the tuber at 100 yards, but was laid up before the police and sent to jail for a week by the indignant magistrate.

THERE is a TALK of a HANDEL COMMEMORATION to be held this year at Basle.

THE "DÉBATS" says of the exile of Puerio, Agostini, Settembrini, and the rest, "that the conduct of the Neapolitan authorities is inexplicable, for once upon American territory, there is nothing to prevent the unfortunate men from re-embarking and coming to England or to France."

"VESUVIUS," says a Naples letter, "continues to devastate the lands and threaten the surrounding villages. It has now been in eruption for several months, and has cut through, at four points, the route leading to the Observatory. The lava still issues from the foot of the cone, and with a slowness which satisfies the curious, but with a persistency which frightens the savants."

DINNERS continue to be given at the Tuileries, and at the instance of their Majesties dancing takes place every evening. The wives and daughters of the high functionaries of the state are invited, but it is regarded as a drawback "that the youthful element is wanting amongst the men."

CARDINAL WISEMAN was disgracefully mobbed at Liverpool last week, while proceeding in a carriage to the residence of a friend. One of the ruffians was captured, and sentenced to pay a fine of £2, with the alternative of two months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUB.

read Mr. Webster's defence of the Committee of the "Draught" and am compelled to say that I do not find in it any such opinion, that Mr. Dodd, the "draught," has been really dealt by. The committee say Mr. Dodd gave his land "nearly." Mr. Dodd says he didn't, and appeals to a letter which he sent to the committee, which was read to Mr. Charles Dodgson, the chairman of the first formal meeting on the subject, before the meeting began. Mr. Webster admits all this, but says to explain it away. The letter, he says, was read to Mr. Dodd only a few minutes "before he took the chair"—a chairman of a case is necessarily nervous. Mr. Keen suffered from "distress," caused by having such a matter so unseasonably thrust upon him, and has "no distinct idea of anything that occurred." Does Mr. Keen accept this portrait of himself in the character of a chairman of a meeting? Whether he does or does not, the matter is immaterial; for after two columns of objections like these, Mr. Webster says that the only condition in the letter which was not already accepted by the committee, was "not one of the conditions" which "led to the rupture." It was the clauses of the Draft Conveyance of the land, which offended the committee. These, they allege, denied them "the right to think or act independently." They would have the land made over to them "unconditionally," and because Mr. Dodd's draft did not do this, they peremptorily closed the business. Nothing but absolute sway over Mr. Dodd's five acres would content the committee, who—honourable gentleman as they all are—appear to have forgotten that the trust must pass out of their hands into the hands of committees yet unborn. The public, who are less sensitive about dictation from a "draughtman," will, I think, still judge Mr. Dodd's offers and "conditions" by the spirit of his conduct and letters from first to last. Mr. Dodd began by offering two and a-half acres, and afterwards voluntarily increased the gift to about five acres, the whole piece of land. He then added a donation of one hundred pounds, or bricks to that value, "at the fair market price;" he sought over subscribers, and took much trouble for furthering the interests of the scheme. When the committee accepted him the right to nominate "a properly qualified person" (the committee, of course, being the judges), with the same right to Mr. Dodd's heir for life. Mr. Dodd voluntarily imposed upon his heir the condition of giving a hundred guineas in addition to his own donation. It is possible to look at the facts and read the letters, without seeing that Mr. Dodd had a real weakness for the drama, and a desire to do a good deed towards "the profession." Some of the regulations laid down in the conveyance were, I think, more stringent than they ought to be; but they would certainly confer no power on Mr. Dodd to "usurp" a "control," and, right or wrong, the most searching scrutiny must be made in them any possible object, save the welfare of the charity. Mr. Dodd gave up the condition that buildings should be erected on his ground within a reasonable time, when the committee refused, and I cannot help thinking would have modified everything that was objectionable, upon a little remonstrance; but the Committee would have "no more to do with Mr. Dodd," a resolution which is certainly not justified by their subsequent good luck in finding two other gentlemen equally benevolent.

It was a favourite saying that railway accidents would continue so long until a director were smashed or a bishop burnt, and that the public attention would be sufficiently aroused to insist upon adoption of remedial measures. There was a good deal of truth in this exaggeration; we English bear and suffer patiently, until the "terrible example" is brought practically home to us, and even then we frequently do not profit by the warning. Does not the horrible tale of the Rev. John Watson appeal directly to every one of us? This gentleman is crossing the road at London Bridge, between nine and ten at night, when he is knocked down by a cab, sustains injuries of a nature which chill one's blood to read of, and dies within six-and-thirty hours. From the unfortunate man's position in society, and from the evidence of witnesses, there can be no question as to his sobriety, or as to the certainty that the same accident might have happened to any one else having occasion to attempt the same passage. It is indeed time that something was done to remedy the danger of "crossing the roads." In certain parts of London—I will quote the transverse side of London Bridge by the entrance to the Railway Station, and the upper Regent Circus, for examples—to attempt to pass from pavement to pavement is hazardous even for those with their wits about them; while for the aged, the nervous, and the infirm, it is a matter of positive peril. The passage in itself is unpleasant, but when taken in conjunction with obstacles caused by the evolutions of the sweeping "Poor Jacks," the steep-chasing of old ladies (who invariably skid into the middle of the road, and then rapidly retreat) and the neck and neck races of the rival omnibuses, for whom the lamp in the centre of the street stands as a winning-post, it is dangerous in the highest degree. Why could not light, ornamental iron bridges, led up by a flight of steps on either side, and raised to a sufficient height to allow the free passage of vehicles underneath, be erected in such positions as I have named? They would not be costly, and they would be a great boon to rate-paying wayfarers. I firmly believe that one-half of the pedestrians would actually pay toll to be guaranteed such safety of life and limb. Think of this, great Common Councilmen and Vestry Orators! Let Dakin and De Jersey turn it over in their manly bosoms, and Nicholas and Taverner revolve it in their mighty minds! Should such a happy result accrue from your agitation, grateful posterity may perhaps award to your memory a statue in symmetry and taste rivaling that exquisite monument to the immortal Waithman. But, seriously speaking, you will do a very good thing, and, by making yourselves really useful, appear in a new light before the eyes of your fellow-citizens.

On Thursday se'nnight was held a meeting of the proprietors of Drury Lane Theatre. These meetings are generally of a routine character; the Report of the Managing Committee is rambled through by the secretary; Sir — Dogberry and Lord — Verges are eloquent; Messrs. Brown, Jones, and Robinson are very much pleased to find themselves in such good company; Mr. E. T. Smith returns thanks for a compliment paid him, and the affair is over. But on this occasion there was discussion in the camp, and one or two matters wished the rent now paid by the lessee to be increased. This was a very foolish move, and one which was very properly rejected. Mr. Smith pays £1,000 a year, and, as is acknowledged, pays punctually and has increased the proprietors' dividends. It was argued that Ediston paid £10,000 a year; but Mr. E. T. Smith is not exactly Ediston, nor are theatricals what they were in Ediston's time. The committee have got a punctual tenant, and they had better keep him. Mr. Arnold asks an extravagant rent for the Lyceum (£1,000 a year), and the consequence is that the theatre is constantly changing hands, and has been a prey to all sorts of impetuous adventurers. By the way, I wish that, as they do in Parliament, one could call for a return of all the money spent on theatrical entertainments during the year by the committee of Drury Lane, and those men whose names we see figuring always as "patrons of the drama." I would wager that an assistant to a linen-draper, with dramatic tendencies, who frequently goes half-price to the Olympic, distributes more ready money in the twelve months on his entertainment than any one of them!

It is very doubtful whether we shall have any Italian Opera at her Majesty's Theatre this year, as two rumours, each equally reliable as Sir Benjamin Backbite's circumstantial account of the duel, are now current. One states that an action for a very large sum of money has been laid by Lord Ward, the owner of the house, against Mr. Lumley, the late lessee, that Mr. Lumley is in Paris, and does not think it advisable to come over to England, and that Lord Ward is in communication with a public company, with a view to the disposal of the entire property for a magnificent central hotel. The other rumour says that Mr. E. T. Smith has rented the theatre from Lord Ward, and that the necessary funds were paid and documents signed on Tuesday last. *Utrum horum, &c.!* I incline to the former!

From a cursory glance at the forthcoming Exhibition of the Bri-

tish Institution, one may safely say it is rather worse than usual—certainly amongst the figure-painters. Mr. John Gilbert has a vulgar, ill-drawn, un-funny rendering of "Falstaff and the Recruits;" Sir George Hayter, a huge affected royal portrait picture of the "Christening of the Princess Royal;" a Mr. Burgess gives his notions of Spanish life, which, I need hardly say, are not quite so satisfactory as Mr. Phillips', and anything more unpleasant than the attempted imitation of this great master's style cannot be conceived. A host of smaller works, sickly, vulgarly common, and absurdly wishy-washy, occupy good places; as instances, take Mr. A. Corbould's "Three Fishers," Mr. J. P. Hall's "Bumble, and Street Boys," Mr. Marshall Claxton's "Indian Revolt," and many more I may hereafter revert to. But the most wonderful effort is that of Mr. Edward Hopley, called "The Birth of a Pyramid," an attempt to Realise an Egyptian Tradition, which for absurdity and affectation goes beyond conception. It defies description; but an idea of the spirit in which it has been painted may be gleaned when I tell you that the artist (?) writes his name backwards in the corner.

Andell is powerful, but very hard; T. S. Cooper, R.A., poor (that's the right word); Britton Willis admirable in the cattle, but very so-so in the landscape and figures. The animal picture of the exhibition, however, is Mr. Keyle's dogs taking the water, or whatever he may call it, original in conception and composition, with capital painting everywhere.

Mr. J. Clark, the painter of the "Sick Child" and the "Doct'r's Visit," has a domestic subject, a man tickling his child under the chin with the stem of his pipe, which is admirable.

In landscape, Messrs. Johnson, Dillon, Herring, Jutshon, and Oaks, are decidedly above the average. Mr. David Roberts's admirers will like his picture, but Mr. Ruskin's friends will think that the Royal Academician has displayed his old fault of painting a sunset in two colours only. I don't think I like Mr. Nieumann. There are "three Richmonds" in the room—Mr. Nieumann's claims the first attention from its position, but I much prefer Mr. George Stanfield's. Mr. Linnell had a splendid corn-field in last year's Academy—a gentleman of the same name has a similar subject in this year's British, but the sooner the latter takes his corn to Mr. Isenberg and gets it cut the better.

It is early yet for rumours of art-gossip, in connection with the Academy Exhibition, but two have reached me. One is that Mr. Frith is busily engaged on a portrait of Mr. Charles Dickens, the other that Mr. Solomon is painting a companion to his admirable subject of the year before last, "Waiting for the Verdict,"—to be called "The Reprieve."

Mr. S. C. Hall is the latest addition to the ranks of those literary men who have cultivated a personal and face-to-face acquaintance with the public. But the new-comer is in a very different position to his forerunners. Men attended the lectures on Hero-worship to hear what the most original thinker of his day had to say on a topic of which he had made deep study, and on a system which he abhorred. Willis's Rooms were thronged to hear a great English humorist discourse of his departed brethren, but the audience came at least as much to look at the author of "Vanity Fair" as to listen to him; and the crowds which now assemble in St. Martin's Hall come to look upon the great prose-poet of the language, and to receive from his own lips his illustrations of the creations of his genius. But Mr. Hall has created nothing, nor is sufficiently celebrated to be worth paying much to see. His reflected greatness; and indeed, except in the case of Moore, Mr. Hall does not speak of much personal knowledge of the subjects of his lecture; indeed, with most he seems to have had but a casual acquaintance; but he has strung together a pleasant gossip about bygone authors, listening to which a couple of hours can be spent with amusement, if not with instruction.

Vanity, it is said, will lead a man to any extent. The amount of power it possesses, when coupled with philanthropy, we see from the following *bona fide* advertisement, which appeared in Monday's "Times":

"EARLY CLOSING MOVEMENTS. Rest! rest when you are dead; or, Retribution and Reward!—Mr. Smissee will read the last part of his new play (written in the fervent hope of inducing more earnest attention to the early-closing movement, or rather, indeed, to the folly—nay, madness—of late hours in business), at Whitlington Club-house, &c. Time, 2½ hours. Chief incidents: The heroine despatched for the love of Henry Tyall; Martin writhing under the remorse of conscience in the Rookery; the reward of virtue, and triumph of the association! N.B. The leading scenes are in the City, the Rookery, and Belzavilla."

Is this merely "pleasant fooling," sheer madness, or wretched vanity? I do not believe that it would be possible for the most assiduous searcher into destiny to find a parallel to the present state of political parties. It is simply the most delightful embroglio that a lover of confusion can wish to see. Nominally we have three parties—Conservative, Whig, and Radical; but this division does by no means exhaust the parties in the House. The Conservative party is perhaps most homogeneous and compact—but there are wheels within wheels here. There is a remnant of old Toryism still as obstinate as ever; and there is also a religious remnant which is at times exceedingly troublesome. Lord Derby has, I understand, had to encounter this ghost of old Toryism in manufacturing his Reform Bill, and expects to meet it again "at Philippi." The religious people I believe are in the sulks just now. They consider England a lost country since Jews got into Parliament, and are hesitating whether they ought not "to come out of her, lest they—" but I will not follow their example of quoting Scripture lightly. Well, then, we have the Whig party. We all remember that Disraeli denounced this party last session as an "obsolete oligarchy." At the time I thought the words strong, and hardly descriptive of the facts; but really, if they were not descriptive of the facts then, they seem now to have been prophetic of the immediate future, for it appears to me that the Whig party is rapidly becoming obsolete—or rather, I should say, extinct; and what is more, the Whigs themselves see it. "Well," said one of them mournfully to me the other day—a man of no mean name—"we have done our work, I suppose, and now there is nothing left for us but to vanish from the scene." No attempt is to be made this session, I learn, by the Whigs to regain power. Feelers have been put out and members sounded, but the responses were so unsatisfactory that all ideas of the sort have been abandoned. Some sanguine young men still gild the future with hope, as young men are apt to do; but the old men confess that the game is up. The Radical phalanx look compact and solid just now, but I doubt whether it is so. Here, I fancy, on close observation, you may see a trace of homogeneity which may produce unexpected results. The general feeling now amongst the Radicals is, unquestionably, bitterness against the Whigs, and their policy will be, I am persuaded, to help the Conservatives if the Whigs attempt a *coup d'état*. So that, on the whole, during the session Disraeli will be dependant at times upon all the parties in the House. If pressed by his friends, he will call Whigs and Radicals to his help; if pressed by the Radicals to make his Reform Bill too democratic, he will bring up his Whig auxiliaries; and if, on the other hand, the Whigs should attempt his overthrow, he will cry out, "Ho! Radicals, to the rescue!" A very curious state of things this.

A puzzling paragraph went the rounds of some of the papers lately, announcing that, by command of Prince Napoleon, a translation of Solomon's Song had been made in the Cumberland dialect; and men wondered how Prince Napoleon came to trouble himself about such matters. The fact is—and it is always worth while to correct a mistake—that it was not at the instance of Prince Napoleon, but of Louis-Lucien Bonaparte, that this translation was made. This gentleman is the second son of Lucien Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon the First. He now lives at Baywater, where, undisturbed by dreams of empire, he devotes himself to linguistic studies. He is, perhaps, one of the most accomplished linguists in the world. Nor is he a mere linguist, but pursues his studies with a scientific end—to trace languages through their groups, and families to their origin. He has a considerable private printing establishment at Baywater, in which he prints portions of the Bible in languages and dialects likely to become extinct. This is the way one nephew of the great Napoleon is employing his time and abilities. How another is employing his, France and the world knows too well.

THE TAX ON PAPER.

The greater part of the cotton that comes into this country is applied to two purposes, and goes through two stages of manufacture. It first passes through the spinning-mill and the loom, and becomes clothing. When the fibre has lost its strength and its length, or the colours have faded, the fabric is torn to shreds, resolved into flock, steeped in a vat, passed over an endless sieve, and finally emerges as paper. In this form it is used chiefly indeed for the diffusion of knowledge and the improvement of the mind, but also for a multitude of other purposes, from the decoration of walls to the wrapping of tradesmen's parcels. So long as cotton, flax, hemp, and silk, have a purely material utility, they are untaxed. An enlightened legislature has recently seen the wisdom of cheapening the materials of clothing, whether it be the smockfrock of the ploughman, the fustian jacket of the artisan, or the broadcloth of the gentleman; whether it be the blue print of the dairy-maid, or the Honiton lace veil of the noble bride. But when the material has become worthless for dress—when the garments of the peasant and the peer, the coarsest and the finest work—have descended into the all-receiving vat, then the refuse attracts the notice of the Treasury. It is made to yield a golden harvest. The washings of that white pulp yield nearly a million a year. It becomes paper, intrinsically worth less than any textile fabric, or even the original materials in their rudest form. Why is it taxed? Because it is no longer a necessity of nature, but a "luxury." In that wide phrase is included everything above this animal life. Whatever raises man above man, or man above himself; whatever informs a man of more than he sees or hears; whatever tells him of distant regions, past ages, an unseen Maker, a sentiment nobler than appetite, or a beauty beyond colour and form—whatever teaches right and wrong, is all a luxury. A man can do without it. He can eat, drink, and sleep, live and die, without knowing a bit more than what nature itself teaches him. So this luxury of knowledge, religion, sentiment, taste, and civilisation generally, is taxed. It is put in the same category as sugar, tea and coffee, wine, spirits, and malt liquor, tobacco, and whatever else has been discovered to fire the blood or stupefy the brain. So long as you feed or clothe the animal you escape the taxgatherer; but you cannot make him either wise, or pious, or drunk, without incurring a serious penalty for the superfluous undertaking.

No doubt this is a very paradoxical state of things. We cannot wonder that reformers and philanthropists, as well as paper-makers, publishers, and newspaper proprietors, come forward periodically to proclaim their grievance, and salute the opening Parliament with their thrice-told tale. For the truth is, we have not stated the full extent of the absurdity and inconsistency committed by our paternal Legislature in keeping up this tax. We have only supposed hitherto, that the State had a certain respect for the higher uses of paper, compared with those of textile fabrics, and was compelled to act contrary to its instinctive feelings in taxing the nobler article. But this is only a tithe of the case. The British State plunges itself on maintaining religion and diffusing knowledge. It educates the people for this world and the next. It fosters a splendid establishment for the promotion of our highest spiritual interests, and conducting us from this world to another. It provides edifices in which the whole population may hear the precepts of sacred books and edifying discourses. It spends not far from a million a year in maintaining and assisting schools, in teaching reading and writing, and in supplying manuals of instruction. It does not undertake to feed and clothe the people, except paupers in a certain penal fashion; but it does undertake to teach them, or at least to provide for all the opportunity of an education. Yet what it leaves people to do of themselves it happily lets alone; what it undertakes to do for them it clogs and punishes with a heavy tax. What it spends on education it first exacts from paper. A neighbouring State taxes all dramatic entertainments, and then spends the entire proceeds of the tax on one favoured establishment, the resort of the more wealthy play-goers. In England we tax knowledge generally, and spend the proceeds in schools. We pay much money to make the people read, and if they become readers make them pay the money back.—*Times*.

A STAINED WINDOW has been placed in Bakewell Church in honour of the late Duke of Rutland. It is situated in the east aisle of the south transept.

THE MARQUIS OF BREADALBANE, and other noblemen and gentry of the county of Argyll, have resolved to suppress licensed drinking-houses on their estates.

THE DESIRE TO CONFER POLITICAL RIGHTS ON WOMEN which is known to have been evinced in Sweden, has now extended to Denmark; and in two electoral districts in Jutland the privilege of being both voters and representatives has been conceded to such females as may possess certain legal qualifications.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR EDWARD LUGARD, K.C.B., who distinguished himself in India, is to succeed Sir Henry Storks at the War Office. Sir Henry Storks, as we have announced in our Foreign Intelligence, is to be the new Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands.

THE ESTIMATED POPULATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, at the end of 1856, amounted to 104,708 souls; namely, 53,086 males and 51,622 females. In 1856 there were 4,488 births, 1,147 deaths, and 1,172 marriages. The numbers of emigrants were 5,577, and of immigrants, 15,418.

M. LAMARTINE has delivered an opinion that "the people of Spanish and Portuguese America are the nobility of the New World; their principle of life is honour and not money." Lastly, he declares that, were he a younger man, he would fight for the independence of the Spanish and Portuguese on the American continent.

MEYERBEER has completed a new opera, entitled "Dinorah," which, it is said, will be produced at the Opera Comique in the course of next month. We hear, too, that Berlioz has undertaken to compose a new opera in three acts, for the opening of the new theatre at Baden.

LISZT has resigned his post, which he has long held, of director of the opera at Weimar. He has done this, it is said, from disgust at the failure of an opera called "The Barber of Bagdad," composed by a M. Cornelius, one of his pupils.

A NEW EDITION OF SCHINDLER'S "LIFE OF BEETHOVEN" is about to appear at Vienna. A translation of this work, edited by Moscheles, was published here in 1820. Though somewhat meagre, this is the only biography of the great master that can be relied on; and it is very satisfactory to learn that the author's new edition is so much enlarged that it will almost be a new work.

THE ARCHDEACONRY OF CARDIGAN, rendered vacant by the lamentable death of the Venerable John Williams, has been filled up by the appointment of the Rev. John Hughes, vicar of Llanbadarn-Fawr, and incumbent of the chapel of Saint Michael, Aberystwyth.

IN THE YEAR ENDED THE 31ST OF MARCH LAST, £41,739 was spent as "secret service" money—£10,000 in "home" and £31,739 in "foreign" service.

CONSIDERABLE DEFECTS having been discovered in the registry of magistrates in Ireland, Lord Chancellor Napier has announced that it is the intention of the Government to look into and revise the whole list.

CAPTAIN (now Brevet-Major) HENRICE, Sergeant Joseph Ward, Farrier George Hollis, and Private John Pearson, of the 8th Hussars, have been selected for the Victoria Cross by their companions in gallant charge made by a squadron of the regiment at Oualior, on the 17th of June, 1858.

THE BURNS CELEBRATIONS IN SCOTLAND.

To the accounts we last week gave of the Burns Festival in London, we have nothing to add, save the accompanying illustrations, which represent the bust of Burns exhibited at the Crystal Palace Festival, and the scene presented in the Palace at the moment when Mr. Phelps came forward to read the prize poem. However, we now print an account of the Edinburgh banquet, from one of our "own correspondents."

THE EDINBURGH BANQUET.

"By far the most distinguished meeting in Scotland to celebrate the centenary birth-day of Burns was held in the Music Hall. The high price of tickets to this banquet (15s. each) ensured a select assemblage, while the auspices under which the arrangements were made were of the highest. The company met in the great ball-room adjacent to the Music Hall, while in the galleries upwards of 500 ladies were present. At five o'clock, the orchestra struck up a series of spirited na-

tional airs; and the stewards, 100 in number, marshalled in the guests to the respective tables with wonderfully little confusion or delay.

"Lord Ardmillan presided, and he was accompanied to the platform by the Lord Provost, the Lord Justice Clerk, Lord Ivory, Lord Neaves, Colonel M'Laverly, Captain Carnegie, Rev. Dr. Robert Lee, Mr. Adam Black, M.P., Sir William Gibson Craig, Professor Blackie, Mr. D. O. Hill, Mr. James Ballantine, and Professor Campbell Swinton. Sheriff Gordon and Mr. R. Chambers acted as croupiers; while in the body of the hall I observed many interesting local celebrities and distinguished citizens.

A tremendous clatter of knives and forks quickly intimated that the business of the evening had commenced in earnest. Your correspondent was certainly not a little alarmed at the array of flag-gishes and sheep's heads presented before him, but was reassured by the appearance of other viands, not altogether so appropriate to the occasion, perhaps, but much more agreeable to a southern palate. On the cloth being removed, wines speedily gave place to the national 'toddy,' and the toast-master, Mr. Sinclair, Unicorn Pursuivant (a picturesque-looking gentleman, with flowing beard and blue gown), announced the first toast.

"The chairman, who spoke with

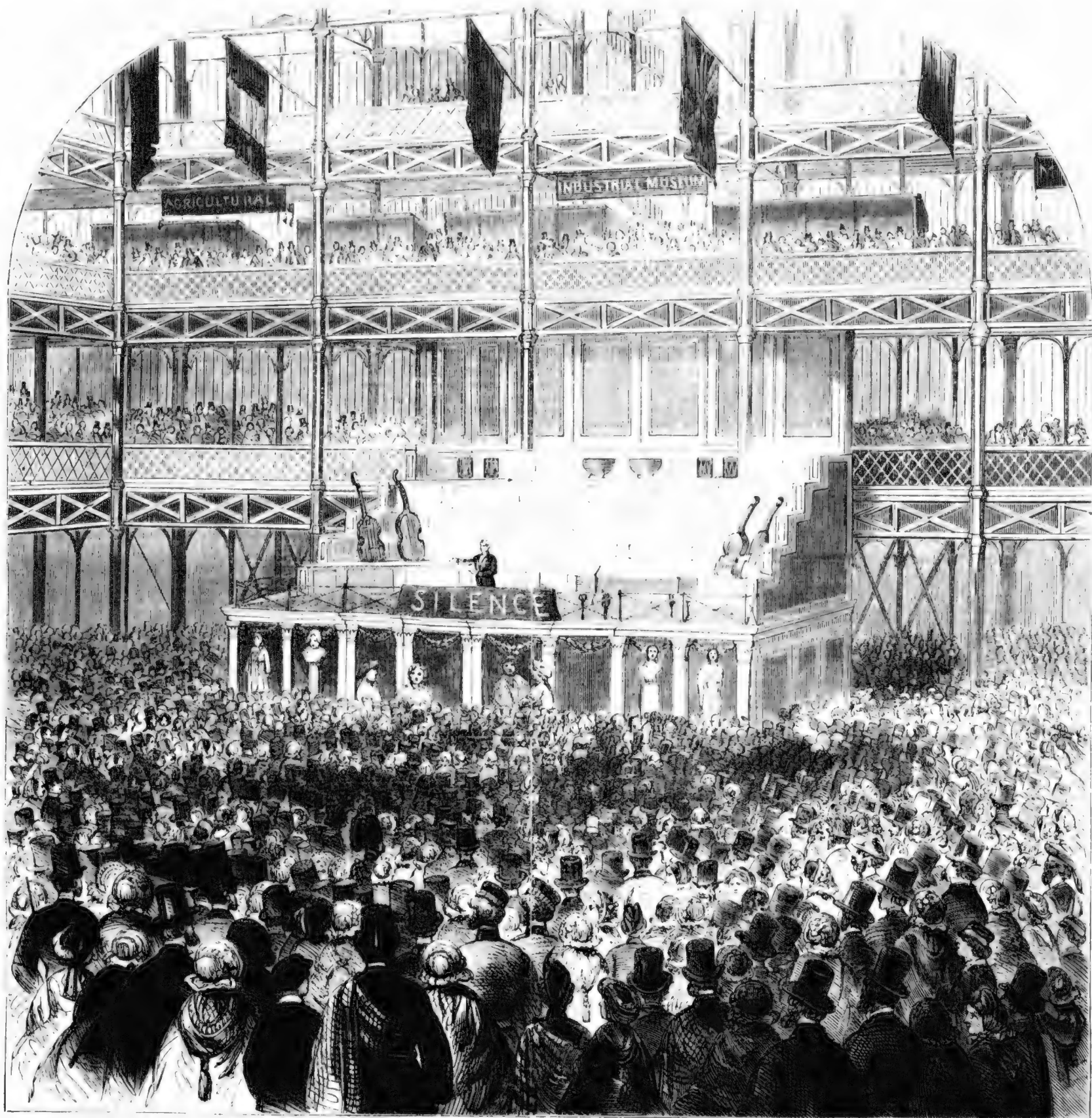


THE BURNS FESTIVAL AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE: THE RUST OF BURNS, BY W. CALDER MARSHALL.

inimitable grace, then proposed the usual loyal toasts, which were drunk in the most enthusiastic manner, particularly that dedicated to the army and navy, which his lordship connected with several characteristic quotations from Burns, delivered with great pith and point, and which was very warmly responded to by Captain Carnegie, who, by the way, was that day gazetted a Lord of the Admiralty.

"Lord Ardmillan then gave the toast of the evening in an admirable speech, full of earnestness and a thorough appreciation of the poet. It was stuck full of apposite and illustrative quotations, and was interrupted again and again by the most enthusiastic applause.

"After the toast to the 'Sanctuary of Scotland,' a picturesque-looking old man, in leeches and gray stockings, the very type of a Scotchman of years since, made a short speech of extraordinary pith and vigour, and told how he was born in 1750, had been carrier between Dunfermline and Edinburgh, how he used to look and talk, and how the poet, in his character of gauger, would overhaul his wagon for contraband articles, his permits, and then bring him into a certain inn and cheer him on his journey with a dram. He then recited 'Tam o'Shanter' with admirable humour, to the



MR. PHELPS RECITING THE PRIZE POEM.

amazement of the audience, who seemed quite unable to realise the idea of the speaker being 101 years old.

"The meeting shortly afterwards broke up, after singing in chorus 'Auld Lang Syne,' and the effect produced by the multitude rising simultaneously and grasping each other's hands, at the last verse, was striking and dramatic in the extreme.

"Lord Neave sang an additional stanza, in capital style and amidst warm applause, the company renewing the chorus with increased enthusiasm.

"And so ended one of the most brilliant, interesting, and, above all, most ardent meetings ever held in Edinburgh."

THE GLASGOW FESTIVAL.
Sir Archibald Alison presided over the banquet at Glasgow, at which also Colonel Burns, the Lord Provost, Sir David Brewster, Samuel Lover, Monckton Milnes, Judge Halliburton, Principal Barclay, Peter Cunningham, and other "celebrities" were present. Sir Archibald, of course, proposed the toast of the evening, in a speech rather heavy than otherwise; and, indeed, the tone of the speeches generally was not of a very high order, though some of them were sufficiently enthusiastic. Of course, Mr. Lover's remarks were not open to the charge of heaviness. His toast of "The Lassies" was particularly funny, and had the advantage of introducing laughter to what otherwise seems to have been rather a solemn meeting. Here, as well as at Edinburgh, a large number of ladies were present, in the gallery of the hall.

In scores of towns and villages in Scotland, as in Edinburgh and Glasgow, the same high festival was celebrated. Relics of Burns were displayed with affectionate reverence; and many poems were recited by local poets inspired by the occasion. All classes mingled at the feasts; for Burns, it was felt, was common to all.

THE BURNS-SCOTT PICTURE.

At the Burns's Centenary Festival of the Caledonian Society, held in the London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street, on the 25th of January, Mr. W. Chambers, of Edinburgh, exhibited some interesting relics connected with Burns, which attracted considerable attention. The most remarkable of these memorials was an aqua-tint engraving, in a glazed frame, suspended from a pillar near the seat of the chairman. Of this print, known as the "Burns-Scott Picture," of which we are enabled to offer a copy, some account was given by Mr. Chambers, in a speech delivered in reply to his health being drunk in connection with the spread of popular literature. After referring to those noble traits in the character and writings of the poet which had called forth the present tribute of national homage, Mr. Chambers proceeded to relate the anecdote about the picture:—

"Burns," he said, "first came to Edinburgh in November, 1786, and remained till May, 1787, during which interval he saw the second edition of his poems through the press, and was in the full blaze of his fame. He became acquainted with Dr. Blair, Dugald Stewart, Henry Mackenzie, Black, Hutton, John Home, Dr. Adam Ferguson, Lord Monboddo, and other distinguished men of the time. It was now that he wrote that beautiful address to Edinburgh—



"Cold on Canadian Hills or Minden Plain!
Perhaps ye parent wept her soldier slain,
Bent o'er her babe her eyes dissolved in dew,

AFFLICTION.

"The big drops mingling with the milk he drew,
Sad mournful presage of his future years;
The child of misery baptised in tears."

A RELIC OF ROBERT BURNS AND WALTER SCOTT.

"Edina, Scotia's darling seat,
All hail thy palaces and towers,
Where once beneath a monarch's feet,
Sat legislation's sovereign powers."

It was also at this time that his portrait was executed by Nasmyth, and engraved by Beugo. So humble was he in his means and aspirations that he was contented with getting a share of the room and bed of his friend John Richmond, in Baxter's Close, Lawn Market. Frequently he was invited or taken to the houses of his literary friends, and among others that of Dr. Adam Ferguson, the historian of the Roman Republic. One evening, about April, 1787, he was conducted by Professor Stewart to a conversation in Dr. Ferguson's house in the Sheens. On this memorable occasion there was present young Walter Scott, a lad of fifteen or sixteen years of age. Scott had heard much of Burns, he had read with delight his newly-published poems, and was anxious to be in his company. But this, as he tells us, could not well be managed. A fellow-clerk in his father's office made a kind of promise to get him introduced through a friend; yet this plan failed, and Scott would probably never have seen Burns but for the circumstance of having for his acquaintance the son of Dr. Ferguson, who latterly became Sir Adam Ferguson. Hearing about the conversation, and the probability of Burns being present, young Adam gets hold of Walter, and takes him to his father's house on the occasion. In the 'Life of Scott' we have an account of this remarkable interview; but Sir Adam, who died only two or three years ago,

favoured my brother with some additional particulars. It seems that Burns did not at first feel inclined to mingle easily in the company. He went about the room, looking at the pictures on the walls. At length one picture arrests his attention; it is a common-looking print, in a black frame. The painter of the picture is Bunbury, and the scene is that of a dead soldier lying on the snow, with his dog watching over him, and near him is his shivering wife, who suckles a baby in her bosom—altogether a subject of a most dismal kind. Beneath are some touching verses:—

"Cold on Canadian hills, or Min-
den plain
Perhaps ye parent wept her sol-
dier slain
Bent o'er her babe, her eye dissolved
in dew.
The big drops mingled with the milk
he drew,
Gave the sad presage of his future
years,
The child of misery baptised in
tears."

Burns was much affected by the print; he read the lines, but before getting to the end of them his voice faltered, and his big black eye filled with tears. A little after, he turned with much interest to the company, pointed to the picture, and asked with eagerness if any one could tell him who had written those affecting lines. All were silent; no one knew except the unnoticed lame boy, Walter Scott, who modestly whispered they were written by Langhorne, in a poem called the "Justice of Peace." Scott was rewarded with a look which he never forgot, and also with the words, 'You'll be a man yet, sir.' Now there, gentlemen, hangs the identical picture. It was presented to my brother by Sir Adam Ferguson, and as a curiosity I have brought it with me from Edinburgh to show on the present occasion. Intrinsically, the picture is not

worth five shillings: but how priceless its value as associated with that deeply-interesting and only interview which took place between Walter Scott and Robert Burns, undoubtedly the two greatest men whom Scotland has ever produced." Mr. Chambers made some further observations, and sat down amidst much cheering. We doubt not that our readers will be pleased to see a copy of the print which moved Burns to tears. The original returns with Mr. Chambers to Edinburgh.

PARIS FASHIONS.

Two beautiful trimmings for ball dresses have just been introduced in Paris; one is styled the *garniture Watteau*, and the other the *garniture Pompadour*. The Watteau trimming consists of three wreaths of flowers (of any kind) disposed in festoons, and placed at the lower part of the skirt. The festoons are finished at each end by bows of gold cord, with tassels. The Pompadour trimming is of festoons, of the mayosotis only. At each end of the festoons there is a tuft of roses. These trimmings are exquisitely fresh, and light in effect, and they may be placed at each side as well as in front of the dress; but in that case they must be of diminished proportions.

A vast variety of fanciful ornaments in hair work have recently made their appearance. Bracelets, neck-chains, brooches, and rings of elegant designs are made of hair alone, for those who desire to wear those pledges of love or friendship quietly and unostentatiously. But the same ornaments are adapted to the fullest evening dress, according to



FASHIONS FOR FEBRUARY: EVENING AND WALKING DRESSES.

the style in which they are mounted. In many instances they are set with precious stones, even diamonds are not unfrequently introduced in hair jewellery.

The mauve colour, though it has enjoyed fashionable favour during a very long interval, is by no means *passé de mode*. On the contrary, it is still very generally worn; but as the beauty of this exquisite colour is fully apparent, and if in bright day-light, it is, at the present season, chiefly employed for bonnets. Many bonnets of black velvet are trimmed with folds of mauve velvet, and the effect is most elegant. Bonnets of black straw or clip may be trimmed with black and mauve velvet in combination. We have seen a black clip bonnet edged with folds of black and mauve velvet disposed alternately. The curtain was of black silk, edged with folds of velvet of the two colours, and headed by a narrow *plissé* of mauve velvet. The strings were of broad black ribbon, edged with quilling of narrow mauve ribbon. Bonnets of quilted silk or satin, which have been much worn during the winter, are now exclusively confined to *académie* costume. The humming-bird is gaining favour in Paris as an ornament for bonnets. It is placed so as to seem as if nesting in a bouquet of flowers or foliage.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

The lady on the extreme left, in ball costume, wears a dress of salmon-coloured tulle, with three dable skirts. Over this dress is a tunic, also of salmon-coloured tulle, richly embroidered up the front, and descending almost to the edge of the lower dress. The corsage is pointed in front, and has a fichu or tie trimmed with white lace. On each shoulder, and in front of the corsage, there is a bouquet of scarlet geraniums. The head-dress consists of a wreath of the same flowers, with long sprays at the back. Jewelled bracelets.

The next figure represents a dress of white tulle over a slip of white satin. The dress has a double skirt; the upper one gathered up at one side by a rosette of blue silk. The lower skirt is edged by a ruche of tulle, having at each side a running of blue ribbon. The opera cloak is of light blue satin, lined with white silk, and trimmed all round with swansdown. The hood is lined and trimmed in the same manner, and is fastened with a cord and tassels of rich passementerie. In front of each arm the cloak is gathered up by cords and tassels of the same pattern. The *coiffure* is a beautiful wreath of daisies, made of light-blue velvet. The fan is of carved ivory, inlaid with gold.

The third figure represents a lady, wearing a dress of rich Irish poplin. The colour is a bright tint of green; the dress has a tablier front of passementerie in a beautiful arabesque pattern. At each side of the tablier there is a bias band of black velvet, embroidered with green silk, the embroidery being intermingled with small black tassels and jet. These bias bands of velvet form *broches* in front of the corsage where they are edged with broad green fringe. Small square collar of guipure. The sleeves of the dress are very wide, and edged with bands of black velvet, embroidered with green silk. Under sleeves of white muslin, with turned-up cuffs of guipure. The head-dress consists of a plaiting of green velvet with lappets of guipure, worn at the back part of the head.

The lady at the extreme right, who is turning round, wears a dress of violet-coloured satin, with two skirts. The trimmings consist of lozenges of violet-coloured velvet, partly plain, and partly cut out in an open trellis-work pattern. These lozenges are disposed alternately. The upper skirt is edged with a chenille fringe. The corsage has a beque pointed at the back of the waist, and edged with fringe. The bertha is shaped square, is ornamented with velvet lozenge trimming, and edged with fringe. The sleeves are slashed at the upper part, and close at the wrist, where they are trimmed with rows of black lace. Bonnet of white *velours éponge*, with a bird of Paradise on one side. Under trimming, flowers made of *batton d'or* velvet and jet.

OPERA AND CONCERTS

"SARABELLA" is still enjoying its "run" at the Royal English Opera. What the next production is to be at this establishment is not yet known. The public are equally anxious to hear Mr. Wallace's "Loreley," and Mr. Loder's "Agnes and Raymond." Probably we shall hear both these works next season, but there can be scarcely time enough to produce them now before the Italian Opera season, for which preparations will have to be made in less than two months. In the meanwhile, there is some chance of hearing the "Rip Van Winkle" of Mr. Bristowe, the American composer—a work in which Miss Pyne and Mr. Harrison have already played in the United States.

Our French friends at the St. James's Theatre have been playing the "Caid." Their humour is ponderous and their singing out of tune, but they cannot perform the "Caid" so badly as they did the "Domino Noir." Ambrose Thomas's amusing work not being susceptible of the same disfigurement as Auber's master-piece. All the fun of the "Caid," as far as the story is concerned, is obtained from a strange intermixture of French and Arab manners, which is the result of certain incidents occurring to a sergeant of Zouaves, a Parisian milliner, one Biretton (a perfumer), an Arab chief, and the chief's daughter—the scene being laid in Algeria. Some of the French characters have an alarming tendency to embrace the liberal tenets of the Mahometan religion in reference to marriage, and the Arab young lady has an excellent scene, in which she proves her willingness to adopt the manners, and especially the coquettishness, of the west. "But that comes naturally to all women," as one of the personages remarks. M. Ambrose Thomas (as is well known to a certain portion of the public) has set M. Sauvage's clever and entertaining *libretto* to very lively music, in which in many places the Italian operatic style is parodied with the happiest effect. Madame Fauré is far better than the other singers in this piece, but none of them do justice to their parts. On Monday, the *prima donna* of the establishment took her benefit as Isabelle, in Harold's charming "Père aux Clercs."

A concert was afterwards given, in which a Belgian tenor, named Depert, made his first appearance, and sang the air from "Fra Diavolo," known in English as "Proudly and Wide." He has not a bad voice, nor is he a bad artist, but there is a want of accent and character in his singing, which, if he possessed them, might stand him in lieu of other qualities. The most interesting feature in the concert was Madame Fauré's execution of the "Carnival de Venise." At the conclusion of the air, Madame Fauré was called forward, and bouquets and wreaths were thrown to her; in fact, she received all the honours usually bestowed on a favourite *prima donna*. Certainly she had displayed great compass and flexibility of voice; it must also be remembered that whatever success has attended the representations of Opéra Comique at the St. James's Theatre, is to be entirely attributed to her. Perhaps she would have been better if she had been better supported; but although much energy has been shown by the directors in bringing out new pieces, it never seems to have occurred to them to introduce fresh singers, glaring as was the failure of some two or three of them in the very first night of the season.

At St. Martin's Hall the "Creation" has been given since our last notice, with Mr. Sims Reeves in the part of Uriel—or rather in a portion of the part, for he was not sufficiently recovered from his recent indisposition to sing the whole of the music. He was replaced by Mr. Arthur Cooper in one of the trials of the first part and in the solo of the second. What Mr. Reeves did sing he sang magnificently, and he was especially admirable in the air which describes the creation and first appearance of man. On the whole, the oratorio was very creditably performed. Messrs. Santley and Thomas were the basses; Miss Stubbach and Miss Martin the sopranos.

The Musical Society of London have given their opening concert, and if the succeeding ones are marked by the same excellence that characterised the first, the series will be one of the finest ever known. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Alfred Mellon, is of first-rate quality, as was sufficiently proved by its admirable performance of Mendelssohn's overture to "Mélusine," and Beethoven's symphony in C minor. Signor Piatti was heard to great advantage in the Violoncello Concerto, written expressly for him by Molique;—and Madame Hayes sang the scene from "Der Freischütz," and the solo part in Mr. Macfarren's charming cantata, "May Day."

The last of the "Monday Popular Concerts" was well attended, though identical in character with those which have been given ever since the commencement of the series. These entertainments are very attractive in their way. There are always a dozen ballads in the programme, of which many are well sung, and several worth singing. There are also operatic airs, duets of various kinds, and one or perhaps two concerted pieces. Last Monday the principal vocalists were "Madame" Bishop and "Madame" Hayes—both English ladies; but the most deservedly successful vocalist of the evening was Miss Poole, who sang with her usual simplicity and truthfulness of expression.

Mrs. ALICE, a pupil of Madame Verdi, has just concluded a very successful engagement at the Grand Opera in Paris, and is about to visit England. She was born in 1817, and made some sensation at the private concerts of our nobility.

Two YOUNG FEMALE VIOLINISTS, sisters, are creating a great sensation at Vienna. They are Pauline, Caroline and Virginia Fritsch, and are compared to the two stars Teresa and Maria Milandoli, who, as many of our readers will remember, charmed all Europe with their sweet sounds some fifteen or sixteen years ago.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE Rev. Alfred Poole, it may be remembered, had some time since his licence to officiate as curate revoked by the Bishop of London, in consequence partly of certain charges made against him with respect to his confessional practices, but more immediately in consequence of his own confessions in certain letters addressed by him to the bishop in reply to the allegations against him. The reverend gentleman appealed to the archbishop, who, upon reading the letters, confirmed the revocation, without affording Mr. Poole further opportunity of showing his innocence. Mr. Poole has since applied to the Court of Queen's Bench to compel, by *mandamus*, the archbishop to hear him in his own defence. It was not necessary in the course of this application for counsel on either side to go into the details of the alleged charges. It will therefore be sufficient for us to state that Mr. Poole, in his affidavits, denies the commission of the improprieties attributed to him in the questions addressed to his penitents. Lord Campbell, in delivering the judgment of the Court, said he had hoped this controversy would have ended and been forgotten. But the Court had no discretion in the matter. The archbishop was bound to hear the appellant, and had not heard him. His Lordship then quoted from Seneca, to the effect that he who decides a case upon hearing one side only, although he may perhaps decide justly, is not himself acting justly in so doing. The *mandamus* was therefore granted as prayed. A somewhat similar case came before the Court shortly afterwards. The vicar of Hardingsstone had dismissed his parish clerk, because the parish clerk (who had previously kept a beer-shop) had obtained a spirit-licence for his establishment. This the reverend gentleman considered inconsistent with the clerical office. A line must be drawn, and his reverence drew it between the beer-shop and the tavern. When remonstrated with, the clerk partly replied, that after all, a publican was fitter than a sinner for the office. Also he, on another occasion, remarked, under similar reproach, "Well, Sir, I must live; you'd shut me out of heaven if you could." In this case also the *mandamus* was granted, but the Court recommended the applicant to apologise for the expressions, which had been used under circumstances of some provocation.

At the Middlesex sessions, a boy who had stolen a cash box from his master was admitted to give evidence against a man who he alleged to have been his accomplice in the affair. After hearing the evidence, the jury retired to consider their verdict, and having done so for four hours, returned into court. The foreman of the jury said that he was opposed to his brother jurymen, who disbelieved the boy's evidence. One of the jurors applied to be allowed to take some refreshment, as he had left home that day without breakfast. This application was refused. "The law of the land," said the assistant judge, "has been for 800 years to the contrary." This took place at half-past five. At half-past ten the jury were again brought up. The foreman, in reply to a question, said they were not agreed, nor were they likely to be so. There had been a storm, there was now a calm, they were going to sleep for the night. The judge, in a curious Hibernicism, inquired, "Are you *mainimous* in opinion that you will never agree?" "We are," replied the jury. Again they were locked up, the assistant judge intimating that were the following day not Sunday, he should have no difficulty in the case "for reasons which they might conceive for themselves." Meaning that but for the intervention of that day he would have them locked up until the next sitting of the court. The foreman pleaded that many of the jury were tradesmen, and had been to market early, and that the consequences of further imprisonment might be serious. They were nevertheless sent back till past eleven o'clock, when, as one of them showed signs of severe physical exhaustion, and as all were still unanimous not to agree, they were dismissed. Such a matter as this ought to excite the most serious consideration. Trial by jury was never invented for the torture of honest tradesmen. Better ten guilty escape than one innocent suffer, is an excellent legal maxim; but here we have a dozen innocent suffering in order to decide on the guilt or innocence of an accused person. The system is unjust in this respect, but still more unjust in relation to the accused. The jurors might have been tortured into giving a verdict of guilty against their consciences, had they been other than the most conscientious of men. Besides, in cases of doubt, the law declares the accused shall have the benefit thereof. Here the doubt is as eleven to one in favour of the prisoner, and yet he must be remanded to prison for a month, and then tried again for the same offence, and compelled either a second time to incur the expense of advocates to defend him or to appear undefended after having already once mustered the necessary expenses. Suppose him to be acquitted; then his imprisonment between the two trials will have been a cruel injustice. But the principle of trial by jury is, that a majority shall not govern a minority, even though the majority be of ten to twelve. Then suppose him to be hereafter convicted. His conviction will then be by a majority of two only—namely, that of thirteen out of twenty-four jurors. Compel unanimity if you will, as necessary to a conviction, but to insist upon it for an acquittal is not only unjust but thoroughly opposed to the spirit, if not to the letter, of the law.

There exists, as is well known, a peculiar kind of trading-mart in Petticoat Lane for the sale and exchange of jewellery, and this mart is held on Sunday morning in a public-house at Petticoat Lane, and is attended almost exclusively by Jews. Some time since, at this mart, one Paine purchased upon credit of a Mr. Grizimish a watch at the price of £7. The money was not paid, and the vender summoned the purchaser for the amount, to the City Sheriff's Court. Defendant pleaded that the Lord's Day Act of King Charles II. prevented plaintiff from recovering, by declaring all contracts made on a Sunday to be void. The judge, Mr. Prendergast, Q.C., reluctantly admitted the objection. "If," said his Honour, "two Jews contract a debt between them on the Lord's day of this land, the debt cannot be recovered at law." Verdict was therefore given for the defendant. We beg leave to vindicate the law from such injustice as that attributed to it by the learned judge. It is true that a sale made on Sunday is void at law, if made in pursuance of the seller's ordinary calling, but is a purchaser of goods on that day to be therefore allowed to retain his benefit of the void contract? If the contract be void, what right or property can defendant set up as to the subject of the pretended sale? A reference to the case of Williams v. Paul, 6 Bingham, 653, will show that, in a similar case to that just related, Mr. Justice Bayley ruled on the trial, that "the defendant, having kept the chattel, was liable on the *quantum meruit*" (the value of the article) "though not for the price agreed on by the bargain of Sunday."

Mr. Plews, a timber-merchant, has been remanded upon a charge of the manslaughter of a fellow-tradesman in the Hampstead Road. The parties were friends, and had been drinking together. Both were slightly intoxicated, and quarrelled. The deceased retired into his own shop, whither he was followed by Plews, who in the heat of altercation

knocked down his companion. The unfortunate man fell against the handle of a drawer with such violence as to cause instant death.

Mr. Padmore, an attorney, caused to be served a writ for £3 3s., and indorsed thereupon the amount of costs as £2 11s. The debt and costs were paid, and an order was obtained by the defendant, commanding the attorney to send in his bill for taxation. Mr. Padmore sent in a bill to the amount of £1 9s. 6d. only, and from this 3s. 6d. was taxed off. When upwards of a sixth is taken off an attorney's bill on taxation (*i.e.*, supervision by the proper officer of the court) the attorney is liable to pay the expenses attending such taxation. Mr. Padmore's conduct appeared to be an invasion of this practice, and defendant applied to the Court of Exchequer to show cause why Mr. Padmore should not, under the circumstances, pay the costs of taxation, and of the subsequent application. The Court decided that Mr. Padmore was to pay both, and at the same time intimated, that in all future cases, where attorneys had knowingly claimed by their writs a larger amount than that they were entitled to receive, the Court would strike them off the rolls. As it may just be possible that one out of a thousand writs issued, may hitherto have been indorsed with the legal amount of costs, it may be imagined that this *dictum* may cause some slight consternation among the attorneys, who ordinarily charge, for the costs of a writ, fanciful sums varying from £2 2s. to £5 3s.

DISCOVERY OF A TAYLOR'S BILL.—Some labourers were engaged in a quarry in Oxford Street, opposite Stratford Place, when they struck upon a block of stone bearing date 1627. It had formed the facing to a fountain spring; and the city arms beneath the date testified, upon the history of the locality being traced back, to the fact that it belonged to a conduit which supplied the city in those days with water—most likely from the Hampstead and Highgate hills. From an opening in the front of the stone had trickled a refreshing beverage for the weary wayfarer, or the pleasure-seeker who sought Oxford Street, not for the theatre or shopping, but for the cool and invigorating air of the conduit. At that spring, likewise, culprits were once brushed by the hangman on their way to the fatal drop at Tyburn.

IS A DOG A CHATTEL.—One Robinson was convicted of obtaining two dogs by false pretences, and was sentenced by the Recorder of Liverpool to seven years' penal servitude. A point was reserved. Is a dog a chattel, as to come within the statute? Before the Court of Appeal in criminal cases, Mr. Littler, for the prisoner, contended that a dog was not a chattel. Mr. Brett said it was not a chattel at common law, and it was not so, because, in the books it was stated that it was not thought right that a man should die for so inferior an animal; but as to a horse, that was stated to be good for food, and, therefore, stealing a horse was made a capital offence. The punishment for stealing a swan was, that it should be tied up by its beak, and the thief should pick up wheat until it was covered. Mr. Baron Martin said that did not bear much proportion to seven years' penal servitude. Lord Campbell said it was clear that stealing a dog was not larceny; that being so, and the law being a specific punishment of a public nature for stealing a dog, it would not be right to say that obtaining a dog by false pretence should subject the offender to seven years' penal servitude. Conviction quashed.

POLICE.

CAPTURE OF A GANG OF COINS.—S. Richard Pike, 52, Chelverie, May 17, a powerful woman of 40, and Margaret Pike, 17, her daughter, were taken into custody by the whole-sale manufacturer of counterfeit money.

Mr. Jackson, being engaged by the Mint for the detection of coiners, had known the prisoners for a considerable time as engaged in those practices. On Thursday he took with him several constables to a house in Chesham Street, Victoria Park, the door of which was knocked at by a policeman, dressed like a butcher and carrying a joint of meat in a tray on his shoulder. Thinking he was a butcher who had come there by mistake, a little and of a case let him in, and Elliott ran through a yard to prevent the others from coming by the back, while the other officers made their way to the back parlour, the door of which was fastened. This door they set in with a screw hammer, and they found the three prisoners, the young man being engaged in filling a counterpane shilling with a file. The girl, who was sitting on the floor, and the girl threw away the file; the male prisoner, who was sitting on the floor, threw away a plaster mould he had in his hand upon the floor, and gave a furious kick at Bennett, who kept him off with the screw hammer; and the woman swept a handful of coin off the table into the street, which rapidly melted it all but a few pieces, which struck the bars of the window to the hearth. The two women then commenced a desperate fight for the mould, one-half of which they both of them stamped on and reduced to pieces, and on the other falling flat on her back over a chair, she still kicked furiously at all within reach of her, screaming for a knife "to stab the officers to the heart," and on securing some pieces of the mould crushed them to dust in her hand. The other two prisoners kicked and fought so that it took the united efforts of the six officers to overpower the three.

The younger prisoner declared that she was perfectly innocent; the others said that, after the stout swearing of the officers, it would be entirely useless to make any defence; but the woman asked that the girl might be admitted to bail.

Mr. Bellamy, from the Mint, however, strongly objected to this, as he considered this to be a case calling for the extreme penalty of the law; and all the prisoners were committed for trial.

AN OBJECT OF CHARITY.—James Davison, a middle-aged man, rather short and respectably dressed, was placed at the bar before Mr. Broughton, charged on remand with endeavouring to obtain money under false pretences.

It was stated that the prisoner had presented to a Mr. J. Pares a note, purporting to come from the Rev. M. Gurney, Rector of St. Mary's, and requesting that Mr. Pares would give his contribution in behalf of a female named Taylor, then living at Shadow, Derbyshire, in distressed circumstances. There was a memorial in the letter, which the prisoner, at his own request, was allowed to take away with him. The prisoner was then given into custody, it having been discovered by Mr. Pares that the reverend rector's name had been made use of fraudulently.

Mr. Broughton asked if there was any further evidence against the prisoner? He understood that on the last occasion a gentleman stated that he had received a memorial in a similar handwriting, but that he believed the prisoner was not the person who left it.

The Officer stated that such was the case. A paper purporting to be a memorial had been found near St. Mary's Church, and was here produced. It was as follows:—"That it was proposed by a few friends to enter into a subscription on behalf of John Taylor, who carried on the business of a cartier for several years between Marylebone and the City, by which means he had supported a large family in respectable circumstances. On the evening of Saturday, the 1st of January, he met with an accident whilst in his cart by coming in collision with a wagon, when his horse was killed, in consequence of which he was thrown from the cart, and received a compound fracture of the arm. He was taken to St. Mary's Hospital in a dangerous state."

"I have been solicited to draw up this statement in order to raise, by voluntary contribution, a sum sufficient to enable his family to carry on the business as heretofore, and take on myself the responsibility, knowing the case worthy of sympathy. The loss is estimated at £10."

"Dated at the Vestry-room, Marylebone, this 14th day of January, 1859."

There were several names attached to this memorial, the signature of which was denied by the vestry clerk, who said he had nothing at all to do with the memorial. Among others, of magistrates and clergymen, was that of Mr. Broughton himself.

Mr. Broughton remarked that the signature to the memorial was a very good imitation of his handwriting, and that on seeing his name attached to such a memorial he was convinced it was a forgery.

Mr. Pares stated that he believed the memorial was the one which was in the note given to him and returned by him to prisoner.

It was stated that prisoner had been previously convicted four times. Mr. Broughton observed that he should send the prisoner to the House of Correction for three months. He directed that a record of his convictions should be obtained, so that, on a future occasion, should he again appear at this or at any other court, it might be produced against him on a similar charge, when, should it be pressed, he might be sent to the sessions for trial, in which case he would be liable to twelve months' imprisonment in the House of Correction, with hard labour.

INDISCREET UNNECESSARY.—James Brook, an old fellow, who was stated to have been in custody five or six and twenty times for theft, was again put to the bar. He had been sent to steal a gentleman's whip out of a dog-cart.

The Prisoner.—A cabman told me that he would give me a shilling if I would go and steal the whip, and so I went and did it.

The Lord Mayor.—Have you brought the cabman here to prove the truth of your defence?

The Prisoner.—Not at all, my lord; I didn't think it necessary.

A policeman said he once arrested prisoner for stealing a pair of boots, and ascertained that he had just before stolen the knife with which he had lashed himself to the boots. He has been for a long time a smoking thief.

The Lord Mayor sentenced him to imprisonment for three months, with hard labour.



THE COMBAT.

FROM THE PICTURE BY RICHARD ANSD



THE COMBAT.

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